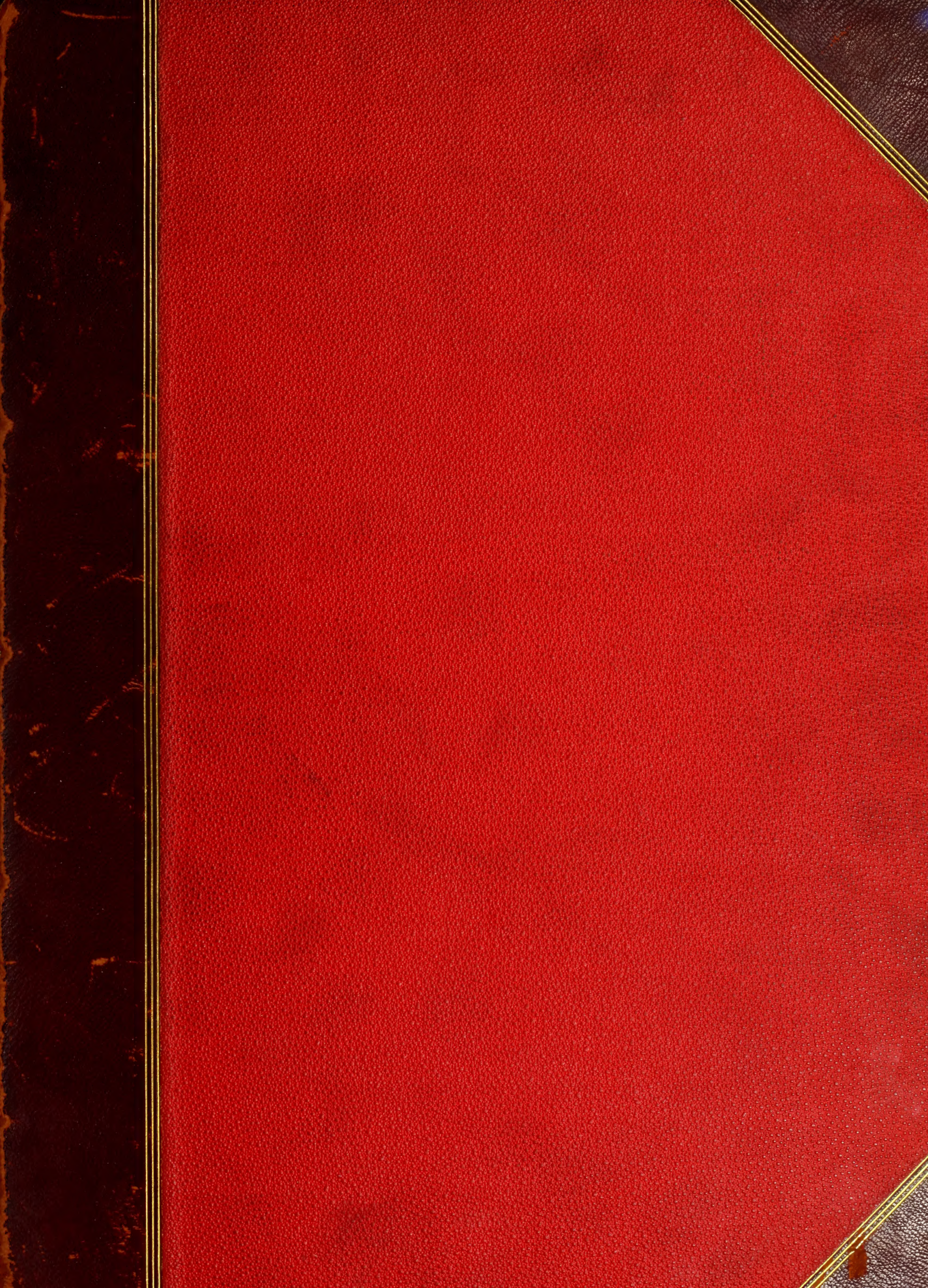




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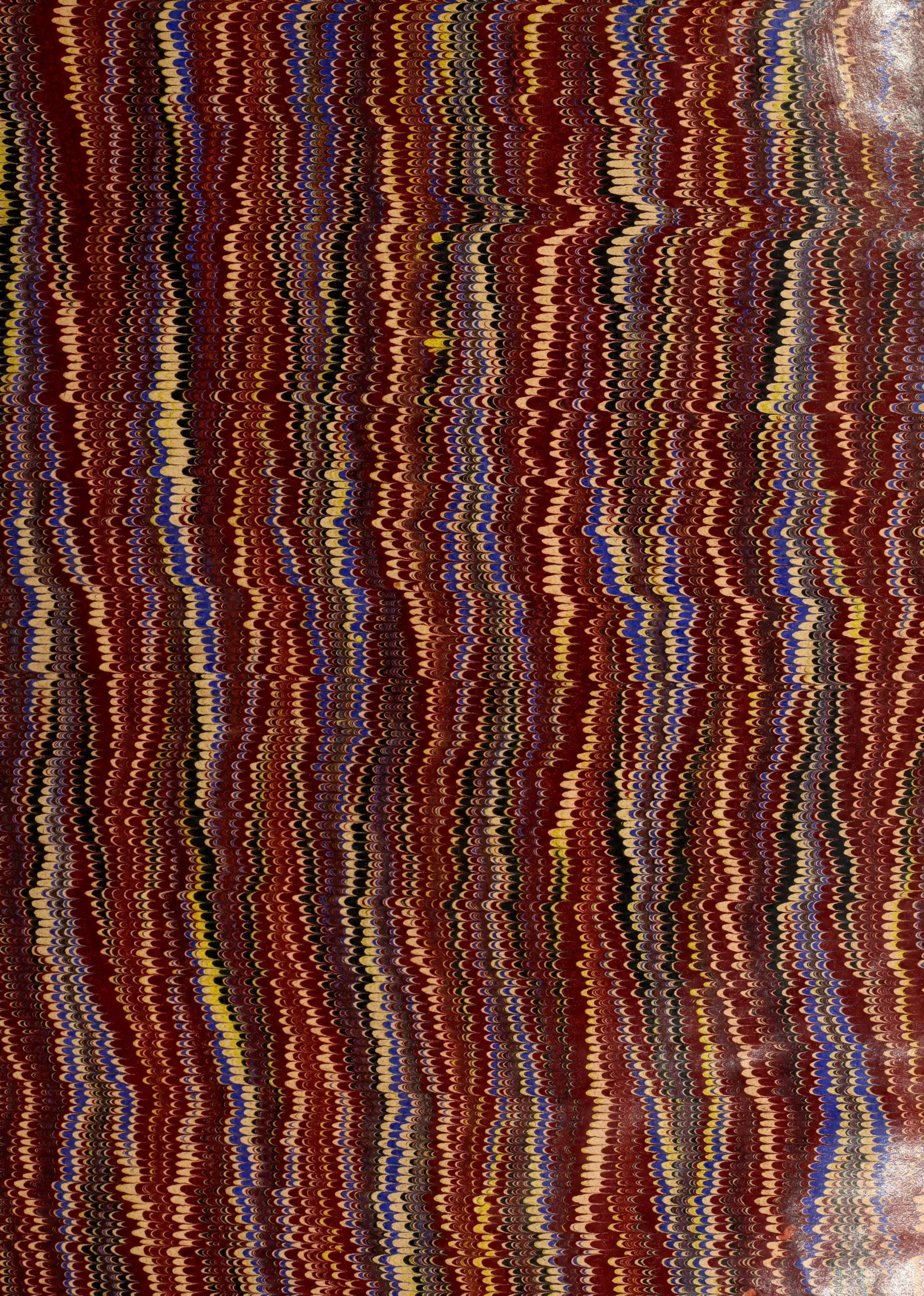
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COMPRISING

THREE HUNDRED FULL-PAGE ILLUSTRATIONS,

WITH

A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTERISTIC HABITS

OF

OVER SEVEN HUNDRED SPECIES,

BY

GRACIUS J. BROINOWSKI.

VOL. V.

PUBLISHED BY CHARLES STUART & CO.,

MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, ADELAIDE, BRISBANE, NEW ZEALAND, AND TASMANIA

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1891.

PLATE I.

GENUS POËPHILA (*Gould*).

THIS class of Finches are distinguished for their grace and beauty. They principally inhabit the northern portion of Australia.

POËPHILA MIRABILIS (*Homb and Jacq*).

BEAUTIFUL GRASS-FINCH.

THIS Finch is very often confused with the *Poëphila Gouldiæ*, which it resembles in many respects, both in appearance and habits, and with which it often associates in large flocks. In fact, for a long time the two species were thought to be identical; but the error of this theory was pointed out by Mr. Elsey, who lived in the midst of them on the Victoria River for many years, and whose name is associated with many other discoveries.

It is found only about the north coast, especially on the Victoria River, where it is very abundant.

Head and cheeks, carmine, below which is a band of black, and below this again is a line of light blue; throat, black; back and wings, green, passing into black on the primaries; across the breast a patch of lilac; under surface, orange; tail and thighs, black; irides, light brown; bill, fleshy-white; feet, flesh-colour.

Habitat: North coast.

POËPHILA PERSONATA (*Gould*).

MASKED GRASS-FINCH.

THE present species was first procured by Gilbert on the north-west coast during an expedition from Port Essington to the exterior.

It inhabits plains, being especially abundant near streams of water, where it congregates in flocks of from twenty to forty.

Its food consists of seeds, and sometimes berries.

Its note is generally a prolonged and mournful cry, but, when on the wing, it utters a feeble twit, twit, twit.

The female is slightly smaller than the male, and her markings are not so distinct.

Crown of the head, upper surface and wings, cinnamon-brown; lower part of abdomen, bounded with black; lower part of rump and under tail-coverts, white; tail, brownish-black; irides, red; bill orange; legs and feet, light flesh-colour.

Total length, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inch; tail, 2 inch; tarsi, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.

Habitat: Northern portion of Australia.

POËPHILA ACUTICANDA (*Gould*).

LONG-TAILED GRASS-FINCH.

THIS is yet another of the many species for which science is indebted to Mr. Bynoe, of the "Beagle," whose name will go down to posterity in connection with some of the most important discoveries in the ornithology of the northern portion of Australia.

It inhabits any grassy plains through which streams run, and is thus easily able to procure its food, which consists of the seeds of grass and various plants.

Nothing important has been discovered of its habits.

The female is slightly smaller than the male, but the plumage is, in most respects, the same.

The crown of the head and cheeks are grey; upper and under surface, fawn-colour, becoming darker on the flanks and vent; throat, band across the rump, and tail, black; tail-coverts, white; wings, blackish-grey; bill, legs and feet, orange; irides, reddish-brown.

Total length, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches; tail, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{2}{5}$ inch

Habitat: North-west coast of Australia.

POËPHILA CINCTA (*Gould*).

BANDED GRASS-FINCH.

THIS bird is so very seldom seen on the east side of the Great Dividing Chain, that it may be said to exclusively inhabit the interior. It is fairly abundant on the Liverpool Plains and other open, grassy country to the northward.

Like the other members of the genus, it is generally found near a stream, and like them, too, feeds on the seeds of various grasses.

The sexes do not differ in size, but the markings of the female are not so well defined as those of the male.

The crown of the head, the neck and ear-coverts, grey; throat and lores, black; chest and abdomen, reddish-brown; upper surface and wings, a darker shade; lower part of the body, both above and below, surrounded by a black band; tail-coverts, white; tail, black; irides, light-brown; bill, grey; legs and feet, pink.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: Interior of New South Wales and Queensland.

POËPHILA LENCOTIS. (*Gould*).

WHITE-EARED GRASS-FINCH.

AMONG other valuable discoveries made during Leichhardt's various expeditions was the present species of *Poëphila*, which was procured south of Port Essington by Gilbert.

It is closely allied to *Poëphila Personata*, but differs, in some respects, in the plumage, particularly in the white on the ear-coverts, throat and flanks.

Its food and, as far as has been ascertained, its habits also, are the same as those of its congeners.

There is no material difference in the appearance of the sexes.

A band crossing the forehead, the throat, and a large patch on the flanks, black; the ear-coverts, a line beneath the black of the throat and a space surrounding the black patch on the flanks are white; crown of head, all the upper surface and the wings are deep brown; chest and abdomen, pale reddish-brown; upper and under tail-coverts, white; tail, black; irides, brown; bill, yellowish horn-colour; legs and feet, pale reddish-brown.

Total length, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: The interior of the north of Australia.



G.J. Brinowski fecit

1. POËPHILA MIRABILIS (Humbert Jacq)
Beautiful Grass-Finch.
3. POËPHILA ACUTICAUDA (Gould)

2. POEPHILA PERSONATA (Gould)
Masked Grass-Finch
4. POËPHILA CINCTA (Gould)

PLATE II.

POËPHILA GOULDIÆ (*Gould*).

GOULDIAN GRASS-FINCH.

GOULD, in naming this bird after his wife, mentions that she accompanied him on his journey to Australia and assisted him in other respects, and also expresses a hope that all other ornithologists would sanction the dedication—a hope that has been fulfilled.

The first specimen was forwarded to Gould by Gilbert, who discovered it on Greenhill Island, in Van Diemen's Gulf. It has also been procured by Mr. Elsey and others on the Victoria River.

It inhabits thickets and mangrove swamps, but, on being disturbed, flies to the top branches of any tall tree that may be in the vicinity.

The stomach, which is very muscular, is generally found, on dissection, to contain grass seeds.

The crown of the head, throat and ear-coverts, black; down the sides of the neck, a broad line of greenish-white; upper surface and wings, yellowish-green; across the breast, a band of pale lilac; rest of the under surface, bright yellow; tail, black; bill, white at the base, red at the tip; irides, light brown; legs and feet, flesh-colour.

Total length, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: North coast of Australia.

GENUS AIDEMOSYNE (*Reichenbach*).

THE present genus was created for a bird which differs very considerably from all the other Finches, especially in the extreme plainness of its colouring.

AIDEMOSYNE MODISTA (*Gould*).

PLAIN-COLOURED FINCH.

THE plain-coloured Finch is found in considerable abundance in the interior of the northern part of New South Wales and the southern part of Queensland.

It is generally seen either in pairs or in small companies, seeking its food among the grass.

The nest is composed of grass and fine fibres. The eggs are five or six in number, of a plain white colour. They are half an inch long, by three-eighths of an inch broad.

The sexes differ slightly in colouring, but the difference is scarcely noticeable, consisting merely of the absence in the female of the black on the chin.

The fore part of the head, deep crimson; chin, black; upper surface, blackish-brown; wings, dark brown; rump and upper tail-coverts, with alternate bars of white and brown; tail, black; under surface, white, transversely barred with lines of brown; irides, red; bill, black; legs, brownish-black

Total length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, 2 inches; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitats: Interior of New South Wales and Queensland.

STAGONOPLEURA GUTTATA.

SPOTTED-SIDED FINCH.

THIS is one of the few species of Finch which is found in the southern part of the continent. It is rather plentiful in most parts of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

In its food and general habits it does not differ from the other Finches, like them, subsisting chiefly on grass seeds.

Its manner of constructing a nest is certainly original and very strange. It builds it among the sticks composing the nest of some of the smaller eagles, and the two species hatch their eggs and rear their progeny at the same time. Sometimes, however, the nest is placed on a small branch of a Eucalyptus or Apple-tree. In form it is round, with an opening in the side to admit the bird. Five or six eggs are laid, white in colour, and of an elongated form.

The crown of the head and back of the neck are brownish-grey; back and wings, dark brown; a line round the eye, a band across the chest, the tail and flanks, black, each feather of the flanks having a spot of white near the tip; rump and upper tail-coverts, bright scarlet; throat, abdomen and under tail-coverts, white; irides, red; bill, red; legs and feet, purplish-brown.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

GENUS TÆNIOPYGIA (*Reichenbach*).

OF this form there are three species, one inhabiting Australia, and the others some of the East India islands.

TACNIOPYGIA CASTANOTIS (*Gould*).

CHESTNUT-EARED FINCH.

THIS is one of the smallest and, at the same time, one of the most beautiful of the Finches yet discovered in Australia.

It is found in the interior, its range extending from the Liverpool Plains to Western Australia, and northward to Port Essington.

It assembles in small companies, frequenting most those places where the grass is abundant.

Unlike most of this class of birds, the colouring of the two sexes differ considerably.

The male has the crown of the head, nape of the neck and back, brownish-grey; wings, brown; tail-feathers, white, tipped with dark brown; ear-coverts, chestnut; throat and chest, grey, the feathers crossed by lines of black; a black patch in the middle of the chest; abdomen, white; flanks, reddish-chestnut, each feather marked near the tip with an oval spot of white; bill, orange; irides, brown; legs and feet, orange.

The female has the upper surface, ear-coverts, wings, tail and flanks, greyish-brown; throat and chest, grey; abdomen, yellowish-brown.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches; wing, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Habitat: Interior.



G.J. Broinowski. Fecit.

1. *POEPHILA GOULDIAE* (Gould)
Gouldian Grass Finch

3. *STAGONOPLEURA GUTTATA*

2. *AIDEMOSYNE MODESTA* (Gould)
Plain-coloured Finch

4. *TENIOPYGIA CASTANOTIS* (Gould)

PLATE III.

GENUS ZONÆGINTHUS (*Cabanis*).

THE two members of this genus which inhabit Australia, resemble each other greatly, both in appearance and habits.

ZONÆGINTHUS OCULEUS.

RED-EARED FINCH.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA is the home of this species, which is generally found either in open forest country studded with thickets, or in swampy situations and the borders of lakes and rivers.

Unlike its congener, it is a solitary species, more than one never being found in the same spot.

On dissection the stomach, which is not very muscular, is found to contain seeds of various grasses. Its powers of flight are not great, and are used only to enable it to pass between the different thickets, or from tree to tree.

Its cry consists of a single long drawn-out note, which, heard in the still forest, sounds most melancholy.

The lores, a line above the bill, and a circle round the eye are black, behind the eye is a patch of scarlet; upper surface, wings and tail, olive-brown, crossed by numerous crescent-shaped bands of black; rump and margin of the base of the central tail-feathers, scarlet; throat and breast, light brown, crossed by crescent-shaped bands of blackish-brown; abdomen, white, each feather edged with black; irides, red; bill, scarlet; legs and feet, yellowish-grey.

The sexes are alike in colouring.

Habitat : Western Australia.

ZONÆGINTHUS BELLUS.

FIRE-TAILED FINCH.

THIS species of Finch inhabits the whole of Tasmania and some parts of New South Wales. It is generally seen in small flocks of from six to twelve, in the open forest, and very often in the gardens of the inhabitants, its tameness of disposition making it a great favourite.

The food consists of the seeds of various grasses and other small plants.

While perched on one of the branches of a tree, it utters a single mournful note.

The breeding season lasts from September to January, when a large dome-shaped nest is constructed of grass and the stalks of plants, and is placed among the branches of a low tree, generally in a very conspicuous position. The eggs are white, slightly tinted with pink. They are either five or six in number, and are eight and a half lines long by six and a half lines broad. Two or three broods are reared in the season.

The lores, a line across the forehead and a circle round the eye are black; upper surface, wings and tail, olive-brown, crossed by numerous narrow crescent-shaped marks of black; rump and base of tail-feathers, scarlet; throat and chest light brown; rest of under surface, grey, the whole being crossed by crescentic black bars; irides, brown; bill, crimson; legs and feet, yellowish-grey.

Habitats: Tasmania and New South Wales.

GENUS *ÆGINTHA* (*Cabanis*).

CABANIS created this genus for a bird called by Latham, *Fringilla Temporalis*. It is the only species discovered in Australia.

ÆGINTHIA TEMPORALIS.

RED-EYEBROWED FINCH.

THIS is a fairly common bird in nearly all the open grassy glades and settlers' gardens of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

It is very tame in disposition, and is easily reconciled to captivity.

During the breeding season it is mostly seen in pairs, but at other times assembles in large flocks.

During September and the two following months it builds a large nest of grass, lined with down, placing it in a low bush or small tree. Either five or six eggs are laid, fleshy white in colour, and seven lines long by five and a half lines broad.

The crown of the head is bluish-grey; upper surface, wings and tail, dark olive-brown; rump, patch over the eye and bill, crimson; under surface, grey; irides, light brown; legs and feet, yellowish-grey.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

GENUS NEOCHMIA (*Homb. and Jacq.*)

ONLY one species is known of the present genus, which differs from the other Finches in its long tail and red colouring.

NEOCHMIA PHAETON (*G. R. Gray*).

CRIMSON FINCH.

THE honour of discovering this bird is due to two French naturalists, Messrs. Hombron and Jacquinot, who found it at Raffle's Bay, near Port Essington, where Gilbert afterwards also procured specimens.

It frequents mostly grassy plains, especially those studded with the Pandanus (Screw-pine), in which trees it takes refuge when disturbed.

During the breeding season, which lasts from the end of November to February, it is seen in small companies, ranging in number from two to six, but at other times associates in large flocks, sometimes consisting of several hundreds.

The crown of the head and back of the neck are black; lores, sides of the face, ear-coverts and wing-coverts, crimson; under-surface, crimson, spotted on the flanks with white; under tail-coverts, black; back and rump, grey; wings, grey, tipped with crimson; upper tail-coverts and tail, red; irides, light brown; bill, red, bounded at the base by a line of grey; legs and feet, yellowish-grey.

The female differs in having the upper surface brown; the breast and flanks, greyish-brown; and centre of abdomen, buff.

Habitat: North coast.



1. ZONÆGINTHUS OCULEUS
Red-eared Finch

3. AEGINTHA TEMPORALIS
Red-eyebrowed Finch

G. J. Broinowski

PLATE IV.

GENUS STICTOPTERA (*Reichenbach*).

AUSTRALIA possesses two members of this genus, both of which are distinguished by a black zone across the breast.

STICTOPTERA BICHENOVII.

BICHENO'S FINCH.

THE plains of the interior of Australia, particularly where small trees and bushes grow at intervals, abound in specimens of this species, but it is difficult to define its exact locality.

It is very tame, and when disturbed from the ground, merely flies off to a neighbouring bush, never going far. As a matter of fact, it would be impossible to go any distance, since its wings, from their form, are evidently not intended for long flights.

It is seen in small flocks of from four to eight, generally on the ground procuring the seeds which constitute its food.

The face, ear-coverts and throat are white, bounded all round by a band of black; crown of the head and upper surface, dark brown; upper part of the rump, black; lower part of the rump and upper tail-coverts, white; wings, black; all the feathers except the primaries spotted with white; chest, buffy-white, bounded below by a broad line of black; rest of under surface, buffy-white; tail, black; irides, brownish-grey; bill, pale blue; legs and feet, blackish-grey.

The plumage of the female is not so brilliant as that of the male, but otherwise is the same.

Habitat: The interior of Australia.

STICTOPTERA ANNULOSA (*Gould*).

BLACK-RUMPED FINCH.

THIS is the northern representative of *Stictoptera Bichenovii*, from which it differs slightly in colouring, though their habits are very much the same.

It is found on the north-west coast and on the Cobourg Peninsula, generally on the grassy banks of a river or small stream.

The throat, face, and ear-coverts are white, surrounded by a black band; chest, white, bounded below by a broad band of black; abdomen, buffy-white; crown of the head, dark brown; back and wings, blackish-brown, the wings spotted with white; rump, tail-coverts and tail, black; irides, brown; bill, bluish-grey; legs and feet, grey.

Total length, 4 inches; bill $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; wing, 2 inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Habitat: North-west coast of Australia.

GENUS BATHILDA (*Reichenbach*).

THE only species known of this form inhabits the interior of Australia.

BATHILDA RUFICAUDA (*Gould*).

RED-TAILED FINCH.

GOULD at first gave the present species the name of *Estrellda Ruficauda*, but further investigation showed that it differs from the *Estrellda* in several important particulars, and thereupon the generic name "*Bathilda*" was instituted for it.

It inhabits the interior of New South Wales, especially about the Namoi, where it is fairly abundant on the grassy banks and among the rushes bordering this river.

In most of its habits it resembles the general body of Finches, like them feeding on various small seeds.

Face, bill and cheeks, scarlet, the feathers of the latter tipped with white; upper surface, bluish-grey; wings, dark olive-brown; upper tail-coverts and tail, crimson-brown; throat, chest and flanks, delicate blue, each feather having a large spot of white; centre of abdomen and under tail-coverts, yellowish-white; irides, brown; legs and feet, yellow.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing, $2\frac{1}{3}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: Interior of New South Wales.



1. STICTOPTERA BICHENOVII.
Bichenov's Finch.

2. STICTOPTERA ANNULOSA (Gould)
Black-Rumped Finch.

PLATE V.

GENUS CALAMOHERPE (*Meyer*).

BOTH Europe and India contain members of this genus, of which two species inhabit Australia.

CALAMOHERPE LONGIROSTRIS (*Gould*).

LONG-BILLED REED-WARBLER.

THE present species is found among the reed-beds on the banks of most of the rivers and lakes, near the coast of Western Australia.

It is very difficult to obtain specimens, as it is exceedingly shy, rarely showing itself above the tops of the reeds, and never going more than a few yards from the nest. Its presence, however, may be discovered by the beautiful song, which it pours forth incessantly, both in the day and night.

The food consists of insects obtained among the reeds.

It breeds in August and September, when it constructs a cup-shaped nest of dried rushes, lined inside with the soft skin of reeds. The eggs, four in number, are in length three-quarters of an inch, and in breadth five-eighths of an inch. They are greenish-white in colour, with patches of dark and light olive irregularly distributed over the surface.

All upper surface and wings greyish-brown; tail, dark brown; under surface and line over the eye, fawn colour; irides, light brown; bill, dark fawn colour; legs and feet, black.

The sexes are exactly alike both in plumage and size.

Total length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{15}{16}$ inch; wing, 3 inches; tail, 3 inches; tarsi, 1 inch.

Habitat: Western Australia.

CALAMOHERPE AUSTRALIS (*Gould*).

REED-WARBLER.

THE Reed-Warbler may be found in most of the marshy places bordering the rivers and lagoons of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, but never visits Tasmania.

It remains in Australia from September till about the end of May, when it migrates to a warmer climate, returning again when the winter is over.

Its food consists of coleopterous and other insects.

The breeding season extends over November and December. During that time it lays four eggs in a nest similar in character to that of the Long-Billed Reed-Warbler, and, like it, placed between several upright reeds, at about eighteen inches or two feet above the water. The eggs are greyish-white, blotched all over with yellowish-brown and bluish-grey.

All the upper surface is olive-brown; wings and tail, dark brown, margined with olive-brown; under surface, light buff, becoming white in the chest and throat; irides, light brown; patch over the eye, white; bill, legs and feet, black.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

GENUS MIRAFRA (*Horsfield*).

ONLY one distinctly defined species of this form inhabits Australia, though some naturalists consider that there are two.

MIRAFRA HORSFIELDII (*Gould*).

HORSFIELD'S BUSH-LARK.

THIS is the nearest approach in Australia to the Skylark of Europe; but there is a very large difference between the two birds, both in appearance and habits.

The species under notice is pretty generally distributed over the plains of the interior of the eastern portion of Australia.

Specimens obtained in Queensland differ slightly from those of New South Wales, a fact which has led some naturalists to divide them into two separate species, though the difference is scarcely great enough to warrant that.

It is very seldom seen on trees, generally perching on a strong blade of grass, or remaining altogether on the ground, where it will allow itself to be almost trodden upon before rising.

Its song, which is very melodious, is uttered either while perched on a tree, or when on the wing.

The general plumage is brownish-grey, with a spot of dark brown in the centre of each feather; wings and two centre tail feathers brown; rest of the tail white; over the eye is a patch of buffy-white; chin, white; under surface, pale buffy-white; the throat crossed by a series of dark brown spots arranged in a crescentic form; irides, dark brown; legs and feet, brownish-grey; bill, brownish-black.

The sexes do not differ either in size or in colouring.

Habitats: Interior of Queensland and New South Wales, and part of Victoria.



1 CALAMOHERPE LONGIROSTRIS (Gould)
Long-billed Reed-Warbler.

2. CALAMOHERPE AUSTRALIS. (Gould)
Reed-Warbler

PLATE VI.

GENUS PTENÆDUS (*Cabanis*).

THIS genus was instituted by Cabanis for a bird which was placed by Vigors and Horsfield among the *Anthi*, and by Gould among the *Cincloramphi*, but which differs from both those genera in several respects.

PTENÆDUS RUFESCENS (*Cabanis*).

RUFIOUS-TINTED CINCLORAMPHUS.

THIS is one of the most widely distributed of the Australian birds, being found in all the colonies except Tasmania, though it only visits New South Wales and Western Australia in the summer months.

It chiefly frequents thinly-timbered plains, generally remaining on the ground, but now and again flying between the tops of the trees, or perching on one of the highest of them, all the time pouring forth its beautiful song, which greatly resembles that of the sky-lark. The female always remains on the ground.

During the breeding season, which lasts during October and the two following months, it lays four eggs in a nest composed of grass, lined with hair and feathers. The eggs are ten lines long by seven and a-half lines broad. Two broods are reared in the season.

The sexes are alike in plumage, but the male is almost double the size of the female.

The upper surface, wings and tail are dark brown, each feather margined with light olive-brown; stripe above the eye, and the throat, greyish-white; ear-coverts and chest, grey, the chest having a spot of black on each feather; abdomen, white; flanks and vent, deep buff; irides, greyish-brown; bill, lead colour; legs and feet, light olive-brown.

Habitats.—All the colonies on the continent of Australia.

GENUS SPHENÆACUS (*Strickland*).

MEMBERS of this genus are found in India and Australia, and in most of the islands between these countries.

SPHENCEACUS GALACTOTES.

TAWNY GRASS-BIRD.

THE eastern and northern portions of Australia are inhabited by this species, which dwells among the long grass and reeds on the borders of lagoons and swamps.

It feeds on insects, but, as it can obtain these among the rushes, and is, moreover, very shy, it seldom ventures out, and thus it is very difficult to obtain specimens. It flies only when pursued closely, and then for a very short distance.

It has no song, but emits a harsh note, several times repeated.

Crown of the head, rufous; upper surface and tail, brown, the feathers having dark brown centres; wings, blackish-brown, margined with pale brown; throat and under surface, grey, becoming darker on the abdomen and flanks, the feathers of the chest having a small spot of dark brown in the centre of each; rump, rufous; irides, light brown; bill, blackish-brown; legs and feet, brownish-flesh colour.

Habitats: Eastern and northern portions of Australia.

SPHENCEACUS GRAMINEUS (*Gould.*)

LITTLE GRASS-BIRD.

THE Little Grass Bird is distributed over all the southern and western portions of Australia, and is also found in New South Wales, but as it remains almost entirely among the reed-beds in swamps it is very little known.

It is a very difficult matter to obtain specimens, as it is effectually hidden by the thick rushes, and will allow itself to be almost trodden upon before rising. When disturbed, it flies to a short distance, and then once more conceals itself among the reeds and grass.

During August and September four eggs are laid in a nest made of fine grasses lined with feathers, which is suspended from two or three upright reeds. The colour of the eggs is white, tinged with flesh colour and spotted with reddish-purple.

The sexes are alike both in size and appearance.

All the upper surface brown, each feather having a darker centre; wings, brown, margined with buff; tail, brown; stripe over the eye, white; throat and under surface, grey; irides, yellowish-brown; bill, legs and feet, fleshy-brown.

Total length, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.



1 IPTENOEDUS RUFESCENS (Cabanis.) 2. SPHENÆACUS GALACTOTES
Rufous-tinted Cincloramphus Tawny Grass-bird

PLATE VII.

GENUS CINCLORAMPHUS (*Gould*).

THERE are two species of this genus, which is closely allied to the genus *Megalurus*. Its two most distinctive features are the great disparity in the size of the sexes, and the beautiful song of the male.

CINCLORAMPHUS CRURALIS (*Gould*).

BROWN CINCLORAMPHUS.

THIS is a fairly common bird during the summer months in most parts of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. It arrives in these localities in August and departs again in February, after performing the duty of incubation. It is particularly numerous in the Hunter River district.

The male and female, when seen together, form a most curious contrast, the former being more than double the size of the latter. They may often be seen running along the ground side by side, the male all the time singing in a most animated manner. During the period of incubation he hovers about the nest, often mounting in the air and pouring forth his beautiful and lively song.

The nest is always made on the ground, generally in the midst of an open grassy plain. The eggs are four in number.

The male has the whole of the plumage brownish-grey, each feather margined with greyish-white; irides, light brown; bill, black; legs and feet, flesh-brown.

The plumage of the female is lighter.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

CINCLORAMPHUS CANTILLANS (*Gould*).

BLACK-BREASTED CINCLORAMPHUS.

THE range of this species seems to extend round the Australian coast from Port Philip to Port Essington by way of Western Australia. Specimens from the various localities present certain differences, but not enough to warrant their division into new species.

It resembles the *Cincloramphus Cruralis* in some of its habits, especially in being only a summer visitant to Australia, but is much more shy and wild, and has not the beautiful song of that bird. Its usual note is rather low and plaintive and not at all unpleasing, but when flying it utters a harsh and disagreeable sound.

When not on the ground, it perches on one of the topmost branches of a high tree.

The nest, in which four eggs are laid, is constructed of grass, and is placed on the ground. The eggs are bluish-white in colour, with blotches of chestnut-brown.

The upper surface, wings and tail are brownish-grey, the feathers of the back having darker centres; in front of the eye is a triangular-shaped mark of black; throat and under surface, light brownish-grey, the chest with a small mark of brown in the centre of each feather; the centre and lower part of the abdomen darker than the rest of the under surface; irides, red; bill, dark brown; legs and feet, brownish-flesh colour.

Total length, 8 inches; bill $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch; wing, $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tail, $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Habitats: Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and north coast.

GENUS ANTHUS (*Bechstein*).

THIS well known European form is represented in Australia by only one species.

ANTHUS AUSTRALIS (*Vig. & Horsf.*)

AUSTRALIAN PIPIT.

THIS is the prototype of the European Pipit, which it resembles in most of its habits, and also in its song.

It inhabits plains and open forest country in almost every part of Australia, except the extreme north. It is also found in Tasmania.

It generally remains on the ground, where it obtains the insects and seeds which constitute its food. When disturbed it flies to some little distance, when it again descends, either to a branch of a tree or to the earth.

During the breeding season, which lasts from the end of August to January, it rears two, and sometimes three broods. The nest is made of dried grass and is placed in a small depression in the ground. The eggs are of a greyish-white colour, with spots of reddish-brown and bluish-grey. They are either three or four in number, and are eleven lines long, by seven and a half lines broad.

Upper surface is dark brown, each feather margined with lighter brown; wings and two centre tail-feathers, dark brown; the other tail-feathers greyish-white; ear-coverts, grey; line over the eye, throat and abdomen, white; shoulder and chest, buff; the centres of the feathers being dark brown; irides, dark brown; bill, grey on the upper mandible, black on the lower; legs and feet, brown.

The sexes are alike in plumage.

Habitats: Tasmania and all Australia, except the northern part.



1. *CINCLORAMPHUS CRURALIS* (Gould)

Brown *Cinclo ramphus*

2. *CINCLORAMPHUS GAMBELIANUS* (Gould)

Black breasted *Cinclo ramphus*

3. *ANTHUS AUSTRALIS* (Vig & Horsf.)

Australian Pipit

PLATE VIII.

GENUS CHTHONICOLA (*Gould*).

THIS Genus, of which only one species is known, is a cross, both in appearance and habits, between the *Acanthiza* and the *Anthi*.

CHTHONICOLA SAGITTATA.

LITTLE CHTHONICOLA.

THIS is a rather common species in the apple and gum forests of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, where it is seen in companies of five or six running about the ground in search of food.

It is very tame, allowing persons to approach within a few yards of it, and then only flying off to a short distance.

During the season of incubation, a dome-shaped nest is constructed in a hole in the ground, generally in a grassy spot, where it is effectually concealed from view. The eggs are of a light cochineal-red, with a zone of blackish-brown spots at the larger end. They are generally four in number, their length being nine lines and their breadth seven lines.

Crown of the head, reddish brown; back and tail, olive, the tail tipped with white; wings, dark brown; under surface, buffy-white, each feather, except on the middle of the abdomen, with a stripe of black down the centre; irides, yellowish-brown; bill, blackish-brown; legs and feet, brown.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

GENUS CALAMANTHUS (*Gould*).

OF this Genus there are two members, one inhabiting the southern portion of Australia and the other Tasmania.

CALAMANTHUS CAMPESTRIS.

FIELD CALAMANTHUS.

THE home of the present species is in the grassy plains of Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, especially where there are plenty of small bushes and scrub-like trees growing.

It is very shy and wary, and is, therefore, very difficult to approach. When disturbed, it runs along among the grass, or hides in a bush, very rarely using its powers of flight, which, as a matter of fact, are very small.

It frequently emits its soft and pretty note while perched on a small bush or shrub.

Both this species and its congener emit a strong odour, which causes sporting dogs to point, even at a considerable distance.

The breeding season lasts from the end of August to the beginning of January. The eggs, which are either three or four in number, are laid in a globular-shaped nest placed on the ground, and which is constructed of grass, lined with feathers. Their colour is light chestnut, spotted with brown, the spots being most thickly distributed at the larger end.

Crown of the head, rufous; upper surface, reddish-brown, each feather with a mark of black in the centre; wings, dark brown; tail, reddish-brown, all but the two central feathers tipped with white; a line of white over the eye; ear-coverts and throat white; rest of the under surface greyish-buff, each feather marked with brownish-black; bill, blackish-brown; irides, buff; legs and feet, olive-brown.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{2}{3}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, 2 inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitats: Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

CALAMANTHUS FULIGINOSUS.

STRIATED CALAMANTHUS.

THE Striated Calamanthus is an inhabitant of Tasmania, where it frequents the same kind of country as *Calamanthus Campestris*, namely, open plains and scrubby land.

Its habits also resemble in most respects those of its congener. Like that bird, it very seldom flies, but generally runs along the ground, from bush to bush, carrying its tail erect. It also emits the same strong odour, which at once draws the attention of dogs to it.

It breeds in September and the three following months. The nest is composed of grass and feathers, and contains three or four eggs, the average length of which is ten lines and a half, and the breadth eight lines and a half. Their colour is chestnut brown, tinged here and there with darker colour.

The sexes do not differ in colouring, but the female is slightly smaller than the male.

The upper surface is greenish-olive, each feather having a mark of black; wings, blackish-brown; tail, olive-brown; line over the eye, white; throat and breast, greyish-white; rest of under surface, buff, each feather of the under surface having a narrow line of black down the centre; irides, light buff; bill, legs and feet, olive-brown.

Habitat: Tasmania.



1 CHTHONICOLA SAGITTATA.
Little Chthonicola

2 CALAMANTHUS CAMPESTRIS
Field Calamanthus

3 CALAMANTHUS FULIGINOSUS
Striated Calamanthus

PLATE IX.

GENUS PYRRHOLÆMUS (*Gould.*)

THIS is a purely Australian form, of which only one species is known.

PYRRHOLÆMUS BRUNNEUS (*Gould.*)

RED-THROAT.

VICTORIA, South Australia, and Western Australia are the habitats of this bird, plains covered with scrub and underbrush being its favourite resorts.

It runs about the ground in search of food, keeping its tail erect and uttering a low, piping note. Its usual note, which is emitted while perched on a bush or low tree, is very beautiful, and is one of the sweetest sounds to be heard in the bush.

Its powers of flight, which are not great, seem to be scarcely ever used, even to escape pursuit.

In the spring it builds a nest of grass, lined with feathers, making it on the ground after the fashion of the *Calamanthi*.

The upper surface, wings, and tail are brownish-black; lores, greyish-white; centre of the throat, rufous; chest and part of abdomen, bluish-grey; rest of under-surface, light buff; irides, light yellowish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, blackish-grey.

Habitats: Victoria, South Australia, and southern part of Western Australia.

GENUS XEROPHILA (*Gould.*)

THERE is only one species known of this form, which approximates more closely to the *Acanthizæ* than to any other genus.

XEROPHILA LEUCOPSIS (*Gould*).

WHITE-FACED XEROPHILA.

ALMOST the whole of South Australia is inhabited by this species, small flocks of from six to sixteen being met with in most of the plains and low hills of that colony.

Its food consists of small seeds, and is obtained on the ground, where most of its time is passed.

Of its nidification, Gould says:—"The nest forwarded to me by Strange was of a rather large size, of a domed shape, with a hole for an entrance near the top, and was composed of dried grasses, moss, spiders' webs, wool, the soft blossoms of plants, and dead leaves, matted together and warmly lined with feathers. It was about seven inches in height and four inches in diameter."

The eggs are three in number and are white, slightly tinted with flesh colour. Their length is eight and a half lines and their breadth six lines.

The sexes are so much alike that dissection is necessary to distinguish them.

The forehead, lores, and a line over the eye are white; upper surface, wings, and tail, olive-brown, all the feathers except the two in the centre tipped with greyish-white; throat and chest, white; rest of under surface, pale buff; irides, straw colour; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, 4 inches; bill, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitat: South Australia.

GENUS ORIGMA (*Gould*).

NEW SOUTH WALES is the habitat of the only known species of this genus.

ORIGMA RUBRICATA.

ROCK-WARBLER.

MOST of the creeks and gullies, both in the interior and near the coast of New South Wales, are frequented by the Rock-Warbler.

It runs over the ground and among the rocks very rapidly, uttering a shrill, squeaking note, the tail all the time being elevated in the air.

The food consists of insects obtained among the fallen timber and leaves with which the ground is strewed.

It breeds in August and the three following months, laying three eggs in an oblong nest, constructed of small roots and spiders' webs, lined with feathers and sometimes opossum fur, and suspended from the roof of a cave or overhanging rock. The eggs are pure white, and are eight and a half lines long by six and a half lines broad.

Two broods are reared each season.

The upper surface and wings are dull brownish-black; tail, dark brown; ear coverts and under surface, rusty brown, becoming much darker on the abdomen; feathers of the throat, bordered with black; irides, dark red; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitat: New South Wales.



1. PYRRHOLÆMUS BRUNNEUS (Gould)
Red Throat

3. XEROPHILA LEUCOPSIS (Gould)
White-faced Xerophila

2. ORIGMA RUBRICATA
Rock Warbler

PLATE X.

GENUS EPHTHIANURA (*Gould*).

THREE members of this genus, all differing greatly in appearance, inhabit Australia.

EPHTHIANURA TRICOLOR (*Gould*).

TRI-COLORED EPHTHIANURA.

THE range of this bird extends westward from the northern part of New South Wales, especially about the Liverpool Plains, into South Australia, though in the latter colony it is sometimes found further south, in the vicinity of the coast. It is nowhere abundant.

It principally inhabits plains, covered with scrub and small trees, where it is seen in small flocks of ten or twelve.

It feeds on insects, in the capture of which it displays great activity.

The male has the crown of the head, the breast, abdomen and upper tail-coverts bright scarlet; ear-coverts, occiput, back, tail and wings, dark brown, the wing-feathers bordered with brownish-white; chin and throat, white; irides, buffy-white; bill, legs, and feet, blackish-brown.

The colouring of the female is not so brilliant as that of the male.

Total length, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{9}{16}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitats: New South Wales and South Australia.

EPHTHIANURA AURIFRONS (*Gould*).

ORANGE-FRONTED EPHTHIANURA.

THE species under notice is a native of Victoria and South Australia, where it frequents the same class of country as its congener, *Ephthianura Tricolor*.

The food consists of insects of all kinds, and caterpillars.

The nest is constructed of small twigs, lined with fine grass and hair. The eggs, four or five in number, are white, with spots of reddish-brown distributed over the surface.

The head, sides of the neck, chest, under surface, and upper tail-coverts, golden-orange; back and wings, olive; tail, brownish-black, slightly tipped with greyish-white; chin and throat, black; irides, light buff; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, 4 inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitats: Victoria and South Australia.

EPHITHIANURA ALBIFRONS (*Gould*).

WHITE-FRONTED EPHITHIANURA.

THE whole of the southern part of Australia, from New South Wales to Western Australia, constitutes the habitat of this species; it is not, however, found in Tasmania.

It associates in companies of from two to six, and like the other members of the genus seldom leaves the ground.

In disposition it is extremely shy and wary, and on being approached immediately flies off swiftly to some distance.

It builds in September and October, making a strong nest of twigs and grass, lined with hair and feathers, which is placed in a low bush or tuft of rushes. The eggs, which are either three or four in number, are white, slightly tinted with pink, and spotted, especially at the larger end, with bright rust-red. Their length is seven lines, and their breadth five lines.

The sexes differ considerably in plumage.

The male has the forehead, face, throat, and under surface, white, each feather slightly margined with grey; occiput, black; chest crossed by a broad crescent of black; upper surface, bluish-grey; wings, olive-brown; tail, dark brown; irides, orange; bill, legs, and feet, black.

The female has the upper surface, wings, and tail, greyish-brown; throat and under surface, buffy-white, with the black crescent across the chest.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.



1. EPHTHIANURA TRICOLOR (Gould)
Tricoloured Ephthianura
2. EPHTHIANURA AURIFRONS (Gould)
Orange-fronted Ephthianura
3. EPHTHIANURA ALBIFRONS. (Gould)
White-fronted Ephthianura

PLATE XI.

GENUS ACANTHIZA (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

THE members of this genus have an extensive range over Tasmania and the whole of the continent of Australia, with the exception of the north coast. Some of them are often the foster-parents of the young of the Bronze Cuckoo.

ACANTHIZA PUSILLA (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

LITTLE BROWN ACANTHIZA.

THERE are very few parts of New South Wales in which this species is not found, frequenting the thickets and even gardens in close proximity to dwellings.

It flits about the bushes and the branches of trees, clinging to them in every variety of position whilst actively engaged in procuring the various insects which constitute its sole nourishment.

Except when perched on a branch, it holds its tail erect from the body, a habit which is shared by most of the members of the genus.

The eggs, which are either four or five in number, are laid in a nest composed of grasses and narrow strips of bark, interlaced with the webs and cocoons of spiders. They are of a greyish-white colour, freckled with reddish-chestnut, the spots being most numerous at the larger end, where they often form a zone. The average length of the eggs is eight lines and a half, and the breadth is six lines.

The sexes are exactly alike, both in size and plumage.

The forehead is rufous-brown; the upper surface, wings, and tail, dark brown, tinged with olive; rump, reddish-brown; throat, chest, sides of the neck, and ear-coverts, greyish-olive, each feather margined with dark grey; under surface, buffy-white; irides, light yellow; bill, black; legs and feet, light brown.

Habitat: New South Wales.

ACANTHIZA DIEMENENSIS (*Gould*).

TASMANIAN ACANTHIZA.

THIS is the Tasmanian representative of *Acanthiza Pusilla*, to which bird it bears a marked resemblance both in habits and appearance, although slightly larger than that species.

Like its near congener, it is found in most of the brushes and forests of the colony, its food being procured from among the branches and leaves.

The breeding season lasts from August to January, in which period it not only rears two or three broods, but also frequently acts as foster-parent to the young of the Bronze Cuckoo. The nest, like those of all the other members of the genus, is dome-shaped, but is rather stronger than most of the others, being constructed not only of grass, but also of fibrous roots and small strips of bark, the whole, as usual, being lined with feathers. The size of the eggs, which are either four or five in number, is eight and a half lines by six lines, and their colour is pearly-white, with spots of reddish-chestnut distributed over the surface.

In outward appearance the sexes are very similar, dissection being necessary to distinguish them.

The forehead is rufous-brown; the upper surface and wings, brownish-olive; tail, olive-brown, crossed by a band of blackish-brown; cheeks, ear-coverts, throat and chest, greyish-white, each feather margined with olive-grey; under surface, very light buff; irides, red; bill and feet, brown.

Total length, 4 inches; bill, $\frac{9}{16}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, 2 inches; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitat: Tasmania.

ACANTHIZA UROPYGIALIS (*Gould*).

CHESTNUT-RUMPED ACANTHIZA.

THE habitat of the present species is the interior of New South Wales, particularly about the Liverpool Plains.

Its habits and mode of nidification are so similar to those of its congeners that a separate description is not necessary. Suffice it to say that it feeds on insects, and builds a nest of a globular form, though it is impossible to say exactly during what period it breeds. It is, most probably, however, during the months of spring that the duty of incubation is performed.

The head, upper surface, and wings are brown, tinged with olive; tail, brown, crossed near the tip by a band of black; throat and chest, greyish-white; rest of under surface, buffy white; irides, brown; bill and feet, black.

Total length, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, 2 inches; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitat: New South Wales.



G.J. Broinowski. Fecit

1 ACANTHIZA PUSILLA (Vig & Horsf)
Little Brown Acanthiza.

2 ACANTHIZA DIEMENENSIS (Gould)
Tasmanian Acanthiza

3 ACANTHIZA UROPYGIALIS (Gould)
Chestnut-rumped Acanthiza

PLATE XII.

ACANTHIZA APICALIS (*Gould*).

WESTERN ACANTHIZA.

ALL the forests in Western Australia abound in specimens of this bird, which is closely allied to *Acanthiza Pusilla*, from which, however, it differs in its comparatively large size, and also in some respects in the plumage.

It is arboreal in habits, and while on the trees displays great activity, leaping from branch to branch, and all the time keeping its tail erect.

It feeds on insects, obtained among the branches and foliage of the trees.

During September and October, it makes a dome-shaped nest of grass and strips of bark, lined with feathers, and having an entrance in the side. The nest is placed either in a low bush or in a tea-tree. Either three or four eggs are laid, in color, white, tinted slightly with flesh colour, and speckled irregularly, especially at the larger end, with reddish-brown. They are eight lines long and six lines broad.

The female is smaller than the male, but as far as plumage is concerned, they do not differ.

The upper surface, wings, and tail are olive-brown; the upper tail-coverts, light brown; under surface, grey; the feathers of the throat and chest margined with black; irides, light red; bill, legs and feet, blackish-brown.

Total length: 4 inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, 2 inches; tail, 2 inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: Western Australia.

ACANTHIZA PYRRHOPYGIA (*Gould*).

RED-RUMPED ACANTHIZA.

IN habits and general economy this species assimilates very closely to the *Acanthiza Apicalis*, but differs somewhat in appearance from that bird, particularly in the reddish colouring of the rump and tail-coverts.

It inhabits Victoria and South Australia, being found in considerable abundance in the wooded country bordering the river Murray.

The stomach is fairly muscular, and, on dissection, is found to contain nothing but insects of various kinds.

The sexes do not differ either in colouring or in size.

The upper surface is brown, the feathers of the forehead margined with buffy-white; primaries, brown; the remainder of the wings, olive; upper tail-coverts, rufous; tail, olive-brown, all except the two centre feathers tipped with buffy white; throat and chest, white, each feather margined with black; abdomen and flanks, light buff; irides, brown; bill, brownish-black; legs and feet, light brown.

Total length, 4 inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, 2 inches; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitats: Victoria and South Australia.

ACANTHIZA INORNATA (*Gould*).

PLAIN-COLOURED ACANTHIZA.

THE *Acanthiza Inornata* differs considerably from the other members of the genus, both in the plainness of its colouring and the shape of the tail, which, moreover, it never erects, but carries in a straight line with the body. These differences might almost warrant the creation of a new genus, but as this is always inadvisable unless absolutely necessary, it has been placed in the genus assigned to it by Gould.

South and Western Australia, in both of which colonies it is fairly common, constitute its habitat.

It is generally seen on shrubs or small trees, among the branches of which it obtains the various kinds of insects on which it feeds.

It very seldom breeds before November, in which months five eggs are laid in a dome-shaped nest, made of fine grasses, lined with feathers, and placed in a small bush or scrub-like tree.

"The eggs are white, slightly tinged with greenish-grey; they measure seven and a half lines long, by five and a half lines broad."—(*Gould*).

The sexes do not differ in outward appearance.

The upper surface, wings, and tail are brownish-olive; the primaries, dark brown; crown of the head, brown, each feather having a black spot; under surface, greyish-white; ear-coverts, light buff; irides, greenish-white; bill and feet, greenish-black.

Total length, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch; tail, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch.

Habitats: South and Western Australia.

GENUS GEOBASILEUS (*Cabanis*).

THIS genus was instituted by Cabanis for two of the *Acanthizæ*, which are terrestrial in their habits, and which therefore may fairly claim to be generically distinct from the others.

GEOBASILEUS REGULOIDES.

BUFF-RUMPED GEOBASILEUS.

IN most parts of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia this bird is found, generally in small flocks of from six to fifteen.

It mostly remains on the ground, but may often be seen searching for insects among the branches of trees and bushes, to which also it flies when disturbed. It is of a tame disposition, and allows a very near approach without flying away.

It breeds in September and the two following months, when it builds on one of the branches of a tree, a dome-shaped nest, constructed of grass joined together by cobwebs and lined with feathers. The eggs are four in number.

The crown of the head, ear-coverts, and rump are rufous; the rest of the upper surface and the tail, olive-grey, the tail having a broad band of greenish-black across the middle; throat and chest, light buff; abdomen, buffy-grey; irides, straw-colour; bill, grey; legs and feet, olive-brown.

Habitats : New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.



C.J. Broinowski. Fecit

1 ACANTHIZA APICALIS (Gould)
Western Acanthiza.

3 ACANTHIZA INORNATA (Gould)
Plain-coloured Acanthiza.

2 ACANTHIZA PYRRHOPYGIA (Gould)
Red-rumped Acanthiza.

4 GEOBASILEUS REGULOIDES
Buff-rumped Geobasileus.

PLATE XIII.

ACANTHIZA NANA (*Vig and Horsf.*)

LITTLE ACANTHIZA.

THIS member of the genus *Acanthiza* inhabits the South-eastern portion of Australia, frequenting various kinds of trees, among the branches of which it obtains its food, which consists solely of insects.

The nest, like those of all its congeners, is constructed of grass, in the form of a dome, and has an entrance in the side near the top. It is placed on one of the branches of a tree.

The sexes are so similar in outward appearance that dissection is necessary in order to distinguish them.

All the upper surface is bright olive; tail primaries, and secondaries, greyish-brown, tinged with olive, the tail crossed near the tip by a band of black; ear-coverts and throat, rufous; rest of under surface, yellow; irides, brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

ACANTHIZA LINÈATA (*Gould*).

STRIATED ACANTHIZA.

THIS, the smallest of all the *Acanthizæ*, is found in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, principally among the creeks and gullies in the interior.

Like the other members of the genus, it feeds on insects, and in the breeding season builds a dome-shaped nest.

The female does not differ in outward appearance from the male.

Crown of the head and cheeks are brownish-olive with a fine line of white down the centre of each feather; back, wings, and tail, olive-brown; throat and under surface, greyish-white; the feathers of the throat and chest tipped with olive-grey; irides, light brown; bill, black; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

Total length, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, 2 inches; tail, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

ACANTHIZA MAGNA (Gould).

GREAT ACANTHIZA.

TASMANIA possesses the largest species yet discovered of this genus, in the person of the appropriately named *Acanthiza Magna*.

Although somewhat larger than its congeners, it resembles them in its structure, the character of its plumage, and in its mode of nidification. As in the other cases also, the sexes are alike in plumage and size.

The head, back, and flanks are olive-brown; wings and tail, blackish-brown, washed on the external webs with olive; ear-coverts and patch in front of the eye, olive-grey; throat and under surface, greyish-white, tinged on the centre of the abdomen and on the vent with olive-brown; irides, orange; bill, blackish-brown; legs and feet, light brown.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail, 2 inches; tarsi, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: Tasmania.

GEOBASILEUS CHRYSORRHŌUS.

YELLOW-RUMPED GEOBASILEUS.

THIS is one of the two birds to whom the name of *Geobasileus* was given by Cabanis to distinguish them from the true *Acanthizæ*, among which they were placed by Gould, but from which they differ in being terrestrial instead of arboreal in their habits.

This particular species is found in Tasmania, and in all the continent of Australia except the north.

It remains mostly on the ground, where it is seen in small flocks of from six to ten. Whilst procuring its food of insects, it utters a very pretty song, something like that of the European Goldfinch. When disturbed it flies off to a short distance, then again descends, but on account of its tameness it is possible to approach within a few yards without causing it to rise.

The nest, which is dome-shaped, is constructed of grass and leaves, and lined with wool and feathers. It is, however, different from the nests of all the *Acanthizæ* in having a depression, like another nest, on top. The use of this is not exactly known, but it is thought to be a roosting place for the male. The nest is placed either on one of the branches of a tree or in a small bush or shrub. The eggs, of which there are four or five, are nine lines long and six lines broad, and are flesh colour, speckled with chestnut-red. Three, and sometimes more, broods are reared in the year.

Besides rearing its own progeny, it frequently performs the duty of foster-parent to the Bronze Cuckoo.

The forehead, throat, and cheeks are buffy white, with a spot of black at the tip of each feather; upper surface and wings, olive; rump and upper tail-feathers, yellow; base and tip of the tail-feathers, light-buff, the middle portion blackish-olive; under-surface, greyish-white; irides, light grey; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.



G. J. Broinowski, Fecit

- 1 ACANTHIZA NANA (Vig & Horsf)
Little Acanthiza.
3 ACANTHIZA MAGNA (Gould)
Great Acanthiza.

- 2 ACANTHIZA LINEATA (Gould)
Striated Acanthiza.
4 GEOBASILEUS CHRYSORRHOUS
Yellow-rumped Geobasileus

PLATE XIV.

GENUS SERICORNIS (*Gould*).

THE members of this peculiarly Australian genus inhabit the Southern portion of the continent, where they are found in swampy places or in a secluded part of the forest, or in deep gullies where there is a great deal of scrub. Their nests, like those of the *Acanthizæ*, are dome-shaped.

SERICORNIS OSCULANS (*Gould*).

ALLIED SERICORNIS.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA is the home of this species, which frequents most of the forests and gullies which are thickly overgrown with scrub and creeping plants, among which it obtains without trouble abundance of insects.

In disposition it is very shy and timid, and when disturbed, creeps underneath any kind of bush or creeper which is at hand and then makes off very swiftly. It is always seen on the ground, its powers of flight being seldom, if ever, used.

The difference in the plumage of the sexes is very slight, but the female is smaller than the male.

All the upper surface, wings, and tail, dark olive-brown; spurious wing-feathers, black, margined with white; lores, black; a line above the eye, greyish-white; throat and chest, yellowish-white, spotted with blackish-brown; rest of under surface, yellow; irides, yellow; bill, brownish-black; legs and feet, yellow.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, 2 inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: South Australia.

SERICORNIS CITREOGULARIS (*Gould*).

YELLOW-THROATED SERICORNIS.

THE largest species of the genus *Sericornis*, namely, *S. Citreogularis*, inhabits the brushes of New South Wales, particularly those in the neighbourhood of the Liverpool range, and in the Illawarra district.

It is only seen in the most secluded places, generally remaining on the ground, or on small trees and bushes. When disturbed, it runs among the underbrush, and is out of sight very quickly.

The nest is nearly always placed in a bunch of moss, hanging, as is very common in those parts, from one of the branches of a tree. The nest itself is formed of strips of bark, various grasses, and moss, and is lined warmly with feathers. The eggs are three in number, and are one inch long by eight lines broad. Their colour is brown, with spots of a darker colour irregularly distributed over the surface.

The female is slightly smaller than the male, and her markings are not so distinct.

Lores and ear-coverts, black; a line of yellowish-white above the eye; crown of the head and back, dark brown; wings and tail, reddish-brown; throat, chest, and abdomen, yellow; flanks, greyish-brown; irides, yellow; bill, black; legs and feet, brown.

Total length, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: New South Wales.

SERICORNIS HUMILIS (*Gould*).

SOMBRE-COLOURED SERICORNIS.

IN most parts of Tasmania and also in many of the islands in Bass's Straits this species is found in considerable abundance.

On account of the localities chosen by it (deep creeks and dense thickets being most frequented) it is very little known, and specimens are comparatively rare. Like the European Wren, it hops along the ground, and among stones and fallen logs, where it obtains the insects on which it feeds. During the breeding season the male continually utters a cheerful and rather pretty note.

The nest, which is concealed among the thick underbrush, is dome-shaped, and is composed of leaves and grass, and lined with fine fibrous roots and feathers. In this, three eggs are laid, ten and a half lines long and eight lines broad. In colour they are fleshy-white, spotted with chestnut-red.

As is usual with this genus, the sexes present little or no difference in outward appearance.

The crown of the head, back, wings, and tail, dark olive-brown, tinged with red; rump and upper tail-coverts, rufous; lores, blackish-brown; throat, greyish-white, spotted with blackish-brown; chest and abdomen, brownish-grey; irides, yellow; bill, black; legs and feet, brown.

Total length, 5 inches; bill, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tarsi, 1 inch.

Habitats: Tasmania and some islands in Bass's Straits.



G.J. Brainowski Fec

1 SERICORNIS OSCULANS (Gould)
Allied Sericornis.

2 SERICORNIS CITREOGULARIS (Gould)
Yellow-throated Sericornis.

3 SERICORNIS HUMILIS (Gould)
Sombre-coloured Sericornis.

PLATE XV.

SERICORNIS FRONTALIS (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

WHITE-FRONTED SERICORNIS.

THE White-fronted Sericornis inhabits the whole of the south-eastern portion of Australia, from Spencer's Gulf to the northern part of New South Wales.

Like all its congeners it is found principally among the creeks and gullies, or in a dense and secluded part of the forest. Its note is soft and pretty, and is uttered while hopping about in search of food.

The breeding season extends from August to the end of December. The outer portion of the nest is constructed of leaves and moss, and the inner part of grass and fibrous roots, the whole being warmly lined with feathers. The nest is dome-shaped, and is placed, sometimes in long grass or undergrowth, and at other times beneath a shelving rock on the bank of a creek. The eggs are white, tinged with red, and spotted irregularly with reddish-brown. They are three in number, and are in length ten lines, and in breadth seven and a half lines. Two, and sometimes three broods, are reared each year.

The female is smaller than the male, but otherwise the sexes do not differ in appearance.

Crown of the head, ear-coverts, back, wings, and tail, are olive-brown; lores, blackish-brown; throat and chest, greyish-white; abdomen, white, tinged with yellow; flanks, yellowish-brown; irides, reddish-brown; bill, brownish-grey; legs and feet, brown.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

SERICORNIS LAEVIGASTER (*Gould*).

BUFF-BREASTED SERICORNIS.

THIS is the only species of this genus found in Queensland, where it was first procured by Gilbert during Leichhardt's expedition from Moreton Bay to Port Essington.

It inhabits gullies and scrubby places, remaining altogether on the ground and feeding on insects.

Of its mode of nidification nothing is definitely known; but it is not likely to differ in this from its congeners.

The female, though smaller than the male, is the same in colouring.

Upper surface, wings, and tail, are dark brown, the tail tipped with white; spurious wing-feathers, blackish-brown, tipped with white; line above the eye and under surface, greyish-white; irides, greyish-white; bill, legs, and feet, blackish-brown.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, 2 inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: Interior of Queensland.

SERICORNIS MAGNIROSTRIS (Gould).

LARGE-BILLED SERICORNIS.

THIS bird resembles *Sericornis Citreogularis* in the manner of building its nest, and also in the fact that it remains a great deal among the branches of trees.

It is found in most of the gullies and brushes of New South Wales, both near the coast and in the interior.

It is a very difficult matter to obtain specimens, as its shy disposition leads it to remain hidden on the branches of a high tree.

The nest, like that of *Sericornis Citreogularis*, is placed in a mass of moss hanging from one of the branches of a tree, sometimes at a great height from the ground, and at other times very low down.

It breeds from August to February, laying either two or three eggs of a reddish-white colour, streaked and spotted with dark brown, and measuring nine and a half lines in length, and seven lines in breadth. Two, and sometimes three, broods are reared in the season.

The crown of the head and ear-coverts are light rufous-brown; rest of upper surface, wings and tail, brownish-black; under surface, grey; irides, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, brown.

Total length, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitat: New South Wales.

SERICORNIS MACULATUS (Gould).

SPOTTED SERICORNIS.

THIS member of the genus *Sericornis* is found in South and Western Australia, and on the north coast. Specimens from the first two parts differ slightly in colouring from those procured on the north coast, but the difference is too trivial to justify their division into two separate species.

It frequents the same class of country as its congeners, and like them also, is very shy. Its powers of flight are very small, and are very seldom used, as it remains almost entirely on the ground, and when disturbed creeps away among the scrub.

The nest is constructed in the same way as those of the other members of the genus. The eggs, three in number, are fleshy-white, with spots and streaks of reddish-brown distributed irregularly over the surface, being most numerous towards the larger end. They are nine lines in length, and seven lines in breadth.

The sexes are exactly similar in plumage.

All the upper surface, wings, and tail, dark olive, tail, tipped with white; spurious wing feathers, black, margined with white; lores and ear-coverts, black; throat and chest, grey, spotted with black; under surface, greyish-white, tinged with yellow; line above the eye, greyish-white; irides, greyish-white; bill, black; legs and feet, brown.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tail, 2 inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitats: South and Western Australia, and part of north coast.



1 SERICORNIS FRONTALIS
White-fronted Sericornis

2 SERICORNIS FRONTALIS
Brown-backed Sericornis

3 SERICORNIS FRONTALIS
Green-backed Sericornis

4 SERICORNIS FRONTALIS
Yellow-bellied Sericornis

PLATE XVI.

GENUS CISTICOLA (*Kaup*).

MEMBERS of this genus are found distributed over all the eastern portion of the continent of Australia.

CISTICOLA EXILIS.

EXILE GRASS-WARBLER.

THIS bird, which was known as far back as the time of Latham, and which was placed by him in the genus *Malurus*, inhabits New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

It is found in all plains covered with long grass, among which it creeps, allowing itself to be almost trodden upon before rising. Its powers of flight are only used on a last extremity to save itself.

The food consists of insects of various kinds.

The male is slightly larger than the female, but as far as the colouring of the plumage is concerned there is no difference between them.

All the upper surface; wings, and tail are blackish-brown, each feather narrowly margined with rufous; chin and centre of abdomen, white; rest of under surface, legs, and feet, yellowish-buff; irides, brown; bill, black.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

CISTICOLA LINEOCAPILLA (*Gould*).

LINEATED GRASS-WARBLER.

THIS, the smallest member of the genus, inhabits the north coast of Australia, where it was first discovered by Gilbert in a swampy place near Port Essington.

It is exceedingly shy in disposition, and remains entirely on the ground, always choosing places thickly covered with long grass, which serves to effectually conceal it from view. The early morning in the spring months is the best time to obtain a sight of it, as then the male often perches on a high piece of grass, and pours forth a very musical, but feeble song.

Insects obtained among the grass constitute its food.

Crown of the head, back of the neck, and rump, rufous, with broad striæ of blackish-brown down the head; back, wings, and tail, blackish-brown, the feathers margined with rufous, and the tail tipped with white; throat and chest, white; rest of under surface, irides, legs, and feet, yellowish-buff; bill, black.

Total length, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch; tail, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: North coast.

CISTICOLA MAGNA (Gould).

GREAT GRASS-WARBLER.

THIS is the least known, although the largest, species of the genus *Cisticola*. It inhabits the eastern portion of Australia, but its range is not clearly defined.

In habits and manners it does not differ from its congeners, like them frequenting grassy plains, and feeding on insects.

The sexes do not differ in colouring, but the female is somewhat less in size than the male.

Crown of the head, back, and wings, blackish-brown, each feather margined with brownish-grey; tail, reddish-brown; chin and lores white; under surface, yellowish-white; irides, yellowish-brown; bill, black; legs and feet, yellowish-brown.

Total length, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

CISTICOLA ISURA (Gould).

SQUARE-TAILED GRASS-WARBLER.

IN most of the plains of New South Wales and Victoria, specimens can be found of *Cisticola Isura*, so named by Gould on account of the short tail, which is its most distinctive feature. It has the same shy disposition characteristic of all the species belonging to the same genus, and also resembles them in habits, and in the class of food on which it subsists.

The crown of the head, back, wings, and tail, are blackish-brown, each feather margined with buff; sides of the neck, flanks, and centre of abdomen, yellowish-buff; chest, buffy-white; chin, throat, and vent, white; irides, yellowish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, brown.

Total length, 4 inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; tail, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitats: New South Wales and Victoria.

CISTICOLA RUFICEPS (*Gould*).

RUFIOUS-HEADED GRASS-WARBLER.

THE range of the present species is very great, extending over the whole of the eastern part of Australia, from Victoria to the north coast.

It is readily distinguishable from all its congeners by the rufous colouring of the head. Like them, it inhabits grassy places and feeds on insects.

The sexes are alike in colouring.

The crown of the head and back of the neck are rufous; back, wings, and tail, brownish-black, each feather margined with buff; throat, chest, and under surface, fawn colour; irides, very light fawn colour; bill, blackish-brown; legs and feet, yellowish-brown.

Total length, 4 inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch; tail, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitats: Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland.



EXILIS

Exile Grass-Warbler

2 CISTICOLA LINEOCAPILLA (Gould)
Lineated Grass-Warbler

4 CISTICOLA ISURA (Gould)
Square-tailed Grass-Warbler

PLATE XVII.

GENUS ATRICHIA (*Gould*).

TWO species of this genus inhabit Australia. It is closely allied to the *Sphenuræ*, which it resembles in many respects.

ATRICHIA CLAMOSA (*Gould*).

NOISY SCRUB-BIRD.

FROM the peculiar structure, and the little that is known of its habits, this species will no doubt prove to be one of the most interesting of all the Australian birds.

Unfortunately, on account of its very great shyness, very little is at present known of it beyond the fact that it inhabits dense scrub. Its whereabouts may always be discovered by its peculiar noisy note, but it is a very difficult matter to obtain a sight of it.

The sexes do not differ to any degree in plumage.

All the upper surface, wings, and tail are brown; throat and chest white, with an irregular patch of blackish-brown on the chest; abdomen and flanks, reddish-buff; irides, dark red; bill, dark brown; legs and feet, black.

Total length, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch; wing, 3 inches; tail, 4 inches; tarsi, 1 inch.

Habitat: Western Australia.

GENUS HYLACOLA (*Gould*).

ONLY two species are known of this genus; both inhabiting the eastern portion of Australia, though one has a much more extensive range than the other.

HYLACOLA PYRRHOPYGIA.

RED-RUMPED HYLACOLA.

THIS species is distributed over the whole of the country from South Australia to the southern part of Queensland.

It is found in small companies of four or five, generally on the sides of gullies, or in other stony places which are, more or less, covered with scrub and fallen timber.

It remains almost entirely on the ground, and very seldom flies, but eludes pursuit by running along the ground and between the bushes with great rapidity.

Among the fallen trunks of trees, and in small bushes it obtains great numbers of insects of all kinds, which constitute its sole food.

While perched on a scrubby tree, or on a fallen limb, it pours forth a lively and musical song.

Dissection is necessary to distinguish the sexes, so much do they resemble each other.

Crown of the head, upper surface, wings, and tail, blackish-brown, the tail tipped with white; rump, rufous; under surface, greyish-white, spotted with black; irides, dark red; bill, grey; legs and feet, fleshy-brown.

Habitats: South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and southern part of Queensland.

HYLACOLA CAUTA (*Gould*).

CAUTIOUS HYLACOLA.

THE *Hylacola Cauta* is confined in its habitat to the scrub on the banks of the river Murray, in Victoria and South Australia.

It is smaller than its congener, *Hylacola Pyrrhopygia*, but in habits resembles it greatly. It remains in the thickest part of the scrub, hopping over the ground in search of insects, all the time holding the tail erect from its body. Occasionally it perches on a bush or low tree, and pours forth its sweet and lively song.

No difference is perceptible in the outward appearance of the sexes.

Crown of the head, upper surface, and wings, brown, the primaries having the base of the outer web white; tail, blackish-brown, tipped with white; line above the eye, white; under surface, greyish-white; the throat, chest, and part of the flanks, striated with black; irides, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, yellowish-brown.

Total length, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{9}{16}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitats: Victoria and South Australia.



THE BIRDS OF THE MOUNTAINS OF THE HIMALAYAS
AND THE ADJACENT COUNTRY
BY J. G. COOPER, F.R.S.
AND J. G. COOPER, F.R.S.
LONDON: J. G. COOPER, F.R.S.
1850

PLATE XVIII.

ATRICHIA RUFESCENS (*Ramsay*).

RUFESCENT SCRUB-BIRD.

AMONG the forests about the Richmond River the Rufescent Scrub-bird is fairly abundant, although, on account of its very shy disposition, it is very little seen. The first specimen was obtained by Mr. Wilcox, but Ramsay was the first to give a description of its habits.

It mostly remains among creepers and vines, and, being a perfect ventriloquist, and, moreover, having the gift of being able to mock the notes of all the other birds, it is easily able to throw the observer off the track. Indeed it is most bewildering to be in its neighbourhood, as you will hear the notes of different birds in all directions, whilst perhaps the cause of it all is at a very short distance, hidden in some creeping plant.

It obtains its food of insects from the bark of trees, or from fallen logs.

Crown of the head, vent, flanks, and tail-coverts, rufous; upper surface, wings, and tail, blackish-brown; lores, pale buff; throat, chest, and centre of abdomen, dark grey; irides, yellowish-buff; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitat: New South Wales.

SPHENURA BROADBENTI (*McCoy*).

RUFOUS-HEADED BRISTLE-BIRD.

THIS species, which was first discovered by Mr. Broadbent, by whom the specimen was forwarded to McCoy, is distributed sparsely over Victoria, never being found in other than scrubby places, or dense thickets where the ground is covered with thick undergrowth.

It differs from the other members of the genus, which will be hereafter described, in the greater length of the bill and wings, and in the rufous colouring of the head.

It is a very active bird, running with great rapidity over the ground, and along the logs with which the ground is generally strewed.

Its note is very pretty, and resembles greatly that of the English thrush. It feeds on insects

The female is slightly smaller than the male, but does not differ from it in colouring.

The crown of the head, back of the neck, and ear-coverts are rufous; back, wings, and tail, brown; chin, and space round the eye, white; under surface, grey; irides, brown; upper mandible of the bill, black; under mandible, white; legs and feet, black.

Total length, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{11}{12}$ inch; wing, $3\frac{1}{3}$ inches; tail, $4\frac{5}{6}$ inches; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{6}$ inch.

Habitat: Victoria.

GENUS PYCNOPTILUS (*Gould*).

THE one only species known of this genus inhabits Australia.

PYCNOPTILUS FLOCCOSUS (*Gould*).

DOWNY PYCNOPTILUS.

NOTHING is known of this species beyond the fact that it inhabits scrubby places in the interior of New South Wales, being especially abundant about the river Murrumbidgee.

In structure it assimilates to the *Sphenura*.

The upper surface, blackish-brown, inclining to rufous on the lower part of the back; wings, tail, flanks, and vent, blackish-brown; chest, centre of abdomen, and under tail-coverts, deep rufous; forehead, lores, and throat, light rufous; irides, bill, legs, and feet, blackish-brown.

Total length, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Habitat: Interior of New South Wales.



PLATE XIX.

GENUS SPHENURA (*Lichtenstein*).

OF the three members of this group, two inhabit the eastern portion of Australia, and the other the west coast.

SPHENURA BRACHYPTERA (*Licht.*)

BRISTLE-BIRD.

THE present species inhabits scrubby places in New South Wales, especially where there is abundance of long grass and creeping plants.

It runs along the ground very swiftly, seldom exercising its powers of flight, but eluding pursuit with great ease by threading its way through the undergrowth. Its food, which is obtained on the ground, consists of insects of various kinds.

The nest is formed of dried grasses, and is placed in a tuft of grass or a small bush.

The female is smaller than the male, but resembles it in plumage.

The upper surface is dark brown; the centre of the back, the wings, and tail, are rufous-brown, the wings and tail feathers being margined with darker colour; under surface, greyish-white; on the crown of the head and back of the neck are short lines of greyish-white; irides, brown; bill, dark brown; legs and feet, dark grey; a line over the eye is pale buff.

Habitat: New South Wales.

SPHENURA LONGIROSTRIS (*Gould*).

LONG-BILLED BRISTLE-BIRD.

THIS, the western representative of the species, is found in reed-beds, and in places overgrown with thick vegetation and long grass.

Although fairly abundant, it is very difficult to obtain specimens, on account of its shyness, which leads it to remain almost entirely among the underbrush and grass. It very seldom flies, and never at any considerable height from the ground. When running along the ground, it keeps its tail erect, after the manner of the *Maluri*.

Its song, which is generally poured forth from the branch of a small scrubby tree, is loud, and rather melodious.

The food consists of insects, and seeds of various plants and grasses.

The nest, which is large for the size of the bird, is of a round shape, and is made of dried grasses. The eggs, two in number, are brownish-white, spotted with darker brown, the spots being most numerous at the larger end.

This bird is smaller than the *Sphenura Brachyptera*, but the only differences in the plumage are, that it has a rufous patch round the eye, and that the lines on the crown of the head are fewer in number.

Total length, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches; tail, 4 inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: Western Australia.

GENUS MALURUS (*Vieillot*).

THE members of this genus are principally confined to the southern part of Australia and to Tasmania. They are not found in other countries.

The males are remarkable for the beauty of their plumage during the breeding season, but at other times the sexes are alike.

MALURUS CORONATUS (*Gould*).

CROWNED SUPERB WARBLER.

THIS is one of the few species of the present genus which inhabit the northern part of Australia, where it was procured by Mr. Elsey, to whose energy many important discoveries in Australian ornithology are due.

Nothing is known of the habits of this bird, but it is not probable that they differ much from those of the other members of the genus.

The male has the crown of the head light purplish-brown, with a patch of black in the centre; a band of black extends from the bill to the back of the neck; the back and wings, light brown; tail, greenish-blue, the lateral feathers margined and tipped with light brown; throat and chest, buffy-white; rest of under surface deep buff; irides, bill, and feet, brown.

The female has the upper surface light brown; lores, and space behind the eye, white; ear-coverts, chestnut; and in all other particulars resembles the male.

Total length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: Queensland.

MALURUS AMABILIS (*Gould*).

LOVELY SUPERB WARBLER.

THIS species, an inhabitant of Cape York Peninsula, resembles, both in appearance and habits, the *Malurus Elegans* of Western Australia. It was first procured by one of the officers of the surveying ship "Rattlesnake," and forwarded to the Zoological Society of London, in the proceedings of which society the first description appeared.

The head, ear-coverts, and the centre of the back are delicate violet-blue; the lores, throat, chest, crescent across the upper part of the back, and the rump are black; scapularies, chestnut; wings, brown; abdomen, greyish-white; tail feathers, dark greenish-blue, tipped with white; irides, grey; bill, black; legs and feet, chestnut brown.

Habitat: Cape York Peninsula.



1. SPHENURA BRACHYPTERA (Licht)
Bristle-bird

3. MALURUS CORONATUS (Gould)
Crowned Superb Warbler

2. SPHENURA LONGIROSTRIS (C)
Long-billed Bristle-bird

4. MALURUS AMABILIS (L.)
Lovely Superb Warbler

PLATE XX.

MALURUS LONGICAUDUS (*Gould*).

LONG-TAILED SUPERB WARBLER.

THE present species is abundantly distributed over Tasmania and the islands in Bass's Straits, inhabiting in particular all scrubby places and gullies.

It procures its food of insects on the ground, and among fallen trees and logs. It runs along the ground with great swiftness, very seldom using its powers of flight.

During the winter it is very tame, but becomes much more shy in the breeding season.

It breeds from August to January, building a nest of grass and leaves, lined with feathers and fur, and placing it either in a tuft of grass or in a small bush. The eggs, which are five in number, are fleshy-white, with blotches of reddish-brown irregularly distributed over the surface. They are nine lines in length and six and a quarter lines in breadth. This bird not only rears two or three broods of its own, but also acts as foster mother to the young of *Chrysococcyx Lucidus*.

The male has the head, ear-coverts, and a lunar-shaped mark on the upper part of the back, light blue; the rest of the upper surface, the throat and chest, black; wings, brown; tail, blackish-brown; abdomen, greyish-white; irides, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, brown.

The female has the lores and a circle round the eye, reddish-brown; upper surface, brown; all under surface, greyish-white; the rest as in the male.

Habitats: Tasmania and adjacent Islands.

MALURUS MELANOCEPHALUS (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

BLACK-HEADED SUPERB WARBLER.

THE *Malurus Melanocephalus* is found in parts of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, particularly in damp places, such as ravines and valleys where there is abundance of long grass.

It runs about the ground, holding its tail erect, and sometimes mounts on a high stem of grass to pour forth a feeble, but not unmelodious note.

It is most closely allied to *Malurus Cyaneus*, which it resembles greatly in habits.

The male has the head, neck, ear-coverts, tail-coverts, tail and under surface, black; wings, dark brown; back and rump, scarlet; irides, bill, and feet, brown.

The female is brown, the under surface being lighter than the upper part.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

MALURUS ELEGANS (*Gould*).

GRACEFUL SUPERB WARBLER.

THIS very beautiful species is an inhabitant of Western Australia, where it is fairly numerous.

In its habits it does not differ materially from the other members of the genus, like them assuming its gay attire only during the breeding season.

It breeds during September and the three following months, and lays four eggs in a dome-shaped nest, made of the bark of the *Melaleuca* (Tea-tree), lined with feathers, and suspended from some small shrub-like tree, the Tea-tree being most frequently chosen. The eggs are about eight lines in length and six lines in breadth. Their colour is white, slightly tinted with pink, and spotted with reddish-brown.

The male has the crown of the head, ear-coverts, and centre of the back, light blue; scapularies, chestnut; back of the neck, throat, chest, and rump, black; wings, brown; abdomen, white; tail, dull bluish-brown; irides, bill, and feet, brown.

The female has all the upper surface and wings, brown; throat and under surface, greyish-white; all the rest very much the same as the male.

Total length of male, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch; tail, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tarsi, 1 inch.

Habitat: Western Australia.

MALURUS CYANEUS (*Vieillot*).

SUPERB WARBLER.

THIS bird is abundantly distributed over New South Wales, Victoria, and the southern part of Queensland, and specimens have also been found in South Australia.

It frequents the same class of country as the *Malurus Melanocephalus*, namely, damp places covered with long grass and under-growth. It also frequents gardens, and sometimes even builds its nest in trees in the middle of a town. Gould mentions having seen a pair building in a tree in front of the Colonial Secretary's Office in Sydney.

It seldom flies, but runs along the ground very swiftly, keeping the tail erect.

The insects which constitute its food are obtained among the grass or from fallen logs and trees.

During the Autumn and Winter it is very tame, but on assuming its beautiful plumage the male becomes exceedingly shy and timid, but at the same time most anxious to show off its gay attire.

During the breeding season a dome-shaped nest, formed of grass and lined with feathers, is placed in a bush or tuft of grass, and sometimes, but not often, in a tree. The eggs are pinky-white, freckled and blotched with reddish-brown. They are four in number, and are eight lines long by five and a half lines broad.

This bird rears two broods in the season, and moreover acts as foster-parent to the young of the Bronze Cuckoo, whose single egg is often laid in the nest.

The male has the head, ear-coverts, and a lunar-shaped mark on the upper part of the back light blue; lores, occiput, chest, and back, black; wings, brown; tail, blue; tail-coverts and under surface, greyish-white; irides and bill, light brown; legs and feet, dark brown.

The female has the lores and a circle round the eye reddish-brown; upper surface, wings, and tail, brown; under surface, greyish-white.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia.

MALURUS MELANOTUS (*Gould*).

BLACK-BACKED SUPERB WARBLER.

IN the scrubby places bordering the river Murray in Victoria and South Australia, this species is fairly common, though, on account of its shyness, great difficulty is experienced in procuring specimens. In appearance and general characteristics it is a medium between *Malurus Cyaneus* and *Malurus Splendens*, but exceeds either of them in its running powers, which are very great. In habits it resembles the other members of the group.

The male has the back of the neck, a line through the eye, a band across the chest, and the rump, black; lores and patch beneath the eye, white; wings, light brown, tinged with green across the middle; tail, greenish-blue; all the rest of the plumage beautiful metallic blue; irides, brown; bill, grey; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

The female has the lores and a circle surrounding the eye, reddish-brown, all the upper surface, brown; under surface, brownish-white; wings, brown; tail, green; bill, reddish-brown.

Total length of male, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, 2 inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitats: Victoria and South Australia.



1 MALURUS LONGICAUDUS (Gould) 2 MALURUS MELANOTUS (Gould) 3 MALURUS CYANEUS (Gould)
 Long-tailed Superb Warbler Black-headed Superb Warbler Superb Warbler
 4 MALURUS CYANEUS (Gould)
 Superb Warbler

PLATE XXI.

MALURUS SPLENDENS.

BANDED SUPERB WARBLER.

THIS, one of the most beautiful of all the *Maluri*, is found about the coast of Western Australia.

In general habits it resembles its congeners.

The breeding season lasts from September to the end of December, during which time four eggs are laid in a dome-shaped nest, constructed of grass and lined with wool or feathers. The eggs are flesh-white in colour, with spots and blotches of reddish-brown distributed over the surface, particularly at the larger end. Their length is eight and a quarter lines, and their breadth six and a quarter lines.

The male has the crown of the head, back, scapularies, and tail-coverts, deep blue; ear-coverts and wings, greenish-blue; throat and under surface, deep violet-blue; lores, crescent-shaped mark across the chest, and back of the neck, velvety black; tail, greenish-blue; bill, brown; irides, yellowish-brown; legs and feet, black.

The female has the bill, lores, and circle round the eyes, reddish-brown; crown of the head and all the upper surface, brown; the external margins of the wing-feathers slightly tinged with green.

Habitat: Western Australia.

MALURUS PULCHERRIMUS (*Gould.*)

BLUE-BREASTED SUPERB WARBLER.

THE interior of Western Australia is the home of this species, which in manners and habits resembles the other members of the genus. It is most closely allied to *Malurus Elegans*.

The nest, which is usually suspended from one of the branches of a low, scrub-like tree, is made of grass and lined with hair or feathers. The eggs are either two or three in number, and are flesh-white, blotched with reddish-brown.

The crown of the head and back, rich violet-blue; ear-coverts and space round the eye, verditer blue; throat, indigo-blue; lores, back of the neck, and lower part of the back, black; scapularies, chestnut; wings, brown; tail, blue; under surface, white; bill, black; irides, legs, and feet, brown.

Total length, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{16}$ inch; wing, 2 inches; tail, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{15}{16}$ inch.

Habitat: Western Australia.

MALURUS CRUENTATUS (*Gould*).

BROWN'S SUPERB WARBLER.

THIS species, first described by Gould in the "Proceedings of the Zoological Society," resembles closely the *Malurus Melanocephalus*, but differs from it in the deeper red of the back, and in its smaller size.

It is found about the north-western coast of Australia, particularly in the neighbourhood of Port Essington. The male has the head, neck, under surface, rump, and tail, black; primaries and secondaries, brown; the rest of the wings, black; back, crimson; bill, black; irides, dark brown; legs and feet, light brown.

The female is uniform light brown, inclining to white on the abdomen.

Total length, 4 inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitat: North-western coast of Australia.

MALURUS LAMBERTI (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

LAMBERT'S SUPERB WARBLER.

THE present species, a close ally of *Malurus Cyaneus*, is found in most parts of New South Wales and Victoria, and also in the southern portion of Queensland, but does not inhabit any of the other colonies.

It resembles its near congener, *Malurus Cyaneus*, in its habits, mode of nidification, and in the number and colour of its eggs.

The male has the forehead, ear-coverts, sides of the head, occiput, and upper part of the back, violet-blue; crown of the head, throat, breast, crescent across the upper part of the back, and the rump, black; centre of the back, light purple; scapularies, chestnut; wings, brown; tail, greenish-blue, margined and tipped with brown; under surface, white; bill, black; irides, legs, and feet, dark brown.

The female has the body dull brown, the throat and under surface being much lighter; bill and space round the eye, reddish-brown.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland.

MALURUS LEUCOPTERUS (*Quoy and Gaim.*)

WHITE-WINGED SUPERB WARBLER.

THE White-winged Superb Warbler inhabits the interior of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, but is never found near the coast.

It is very shy in disposition, and, on being approached, runs off among the long grass at a rate which soon distances the pursuer. It very seldom flies, but remains almost entirely on the ground.

The nest is constructed, in the shape of a dome, of grass, and has a hole in the side for entrance. Four eggs are laid, the length of which is eight lines, and the breadth six lines. Their colour, as in the case of the other members of the genus, is flesh-white, spotted with reddish-brown.

The male has the head, the upper and under surface of the body, and the tail, deep blue; wing-coverts, scapularies, and tertiaries, white; primaries and secondaries, brown, margined with white; bill, blackish-brown; irides, legs, and feet, brown.

The female has the crown of the head, and all the upper surface, and flanks, brown; throat and abdomen, brownish-white; bill, reddish-brown.

Habitats : New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.



1. MALURUS SPLENDENS Banded Superb Warbler 2. MALURUS PULCHERRIMUS (Gould) Blue-breasted Superb Warbler 3. MALURUS CRUENTATUS (Gould) Brown's Superb Warbler 4. MALURUS LAMBERTI (Vigors & Horsf.) Lambert's Superb Warbler 5. MALURUS LEUCOPTERUS (Quoy & Gaim.) White-winged Superb Warbler

G. J. B. 1844

PLATE XXII.

MALURUS HYPOLEUCUS (*Gould*).

FAWN-BREASTED SUPERB WARBLER.

ALTHOUGH differing, to a certain extent, in form and style of colouring from the other members of the genus, the differences are not sufficiently marked to justify the division of this species into a new genus.

It is found in the northern part of Queensland, where the first specimens were procured by Jardine.

Its habits, as far as is known, do not differ from those of its congeners to any appreciable extent.

The crown of the head, ear-coverts, back, and two centre tail-feathers are deep blue; the remainder of the tail, brown, the whole tipped with white; space round the eye, and all the under surface, light fawn colour, the throat and breast being much lighter than the rest; wings and irides, dark brown; bill, black; legs and feet, fleshy-brown.

The female has the upper surface, wings, and tail, light brown; under surface, creamy-white, washed with fawn colour on the sides of the neck, the chest, and the flanks.

Total length, $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches; bill, $\frac{7}{16}$ inch; wing, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch; tail, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: North Coast of Australia.

MALURUS CALLAINUS (*Gould*).

TURQUOISINE SUPERB WARBLER.

THE first discoverer of this beautiful bird was Mr White, who procured some specimens in the interior, about 400 miles north-west of Adelaide.

In form it resembles most the *Malurus Splendens*, and its habits are the same as those which characterise the other members of the genus.

The crown of the head, ear-coverts, and back are light turquoisine-blue; a narrow line through the eye, the back of the neck, and crescent-shaped marks across the centre of the back and the chest, black; under surface and two tail-feathers, violet-blue; remainder of the tail, wings, irides, legs, and feet, brown; bill, black.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch; tail, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: Interior of South Australia.

MALURUS LEUCONOTUS (*Gould*).

WHITE-BACKED SUPERB WARBLER.

THE characteristic feature of this species is the white colouring of the back, by which it may readily be distinguished from *Malurus Leucopterus*, to which, in other respects, it bears a strong resemblance.

It inhabits the interior of South Australia, frequenting grassy and scrubby places.

In the spring months it builds a dome-shaped nest, in which four spotted eggs are laid.

The head, neck, under surface, rump, and tail are deep blue; the centre of the back, shoulders, scapularies, and wing-feathers (except the primaries, which are brown), are pure white; irides, bill, legs, and feet, brown.

Total length, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, 2 inches; tail, $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches; tarsi $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: Interior of South Australia.



G. Brown & Co.

1. *MALURUS HYPOLEUCUS* (Gould)
Fawn-breasted Superb Warbler

2. *MALURUS CALLAINUS* (Gould)
Turquoise Superb Warbler

3. *MALURUS LEUCONOTUS* (Gould)
White-backed Superb Warbler

PLATE XXIII.

GENUS AMYTIS (*Lesson*).

THREE species are known of this strictly Australian genus, which is nearly related to the *Maluri*.

AMYTIS STRIATUS (*Gould*).

STRIATED WREN.

THE habitat of this bird is the interior of New South Wales, more especially about the Namoi River, where it frequents scrubby and grassy places almost devoid of trees.

In habits it resembles greatly the *Maluri*, like them feeding on insects obtained on the ground, and only flying as a last resort to escape pursuit.

It breeds in the Spring months, building a dome-shaped nest of various grasses.

The upper surface is red, with a line of white down each feather; ear-coverts, black, striated with white wings and tail, dark brown; chin and throat, white; chest, buffy-white; abdomen brownish-grey; irides, light brown; bill, black; legs and feet, yellowish-brown.

Total length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches; tail, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tarsi, 1 inch.

Habitat: New South Wales.

AMYTIS TEXTILIS (*Quoy and Gaim*).

TEXTILE WREN.

THIS is another inhabitant of the interior of Australia, but has a much greater range than its congener *Amytis Striatus*, being found not only in New South Wales, but also in Queensland, Victoria, and most probably in South Australia.

It associates in small troops from four to six in number, and runs over the ground, and among fallen logs with great rapidity, all the time keeping its tail erect.

It feeds on insects of various kinds.

The nest, which is dome-shaped, contains four, and sometimes five eggs of a flesh-white colour, spotted with reddish-brown.



1. *Amphispiza bilineata*
 2. *Amphispiza bilineata*
 3. *Amphispiza bilineata*
 4. *Amphispiza bilineata*

1. *Amphispiza bilineata*
 2. *Amphispiza bilineata*
 3. *Amphispiza bilineata*
 4. *Amphispiza bilineata*

PLATE XXIV.

GENUS PSOPHODES (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

OF this form, two species exist, one inhabiting the eastern, and the other the western portion of Australia.

PSOPHODES NIGROGULARIS (*Gould*).

BLACK-THROATED PSOPHODES.

THAT energetic and persevering ornithologist, Gilbert, has, in this bird, added another to the long list of discoveries which science owes to him. He found it near the coast of Western Australia, frequenting sand-hills covered with a species of *Leptospermum* (tea-tree).

It feeds entirely on insects, obtained among the fallen leaves and sticks which strew the ground.

Of its mode of nidification nothing is positively known.

The upper surface is dark olive-brown; primaries, brown, the remainder of the wings, olive; tail-feathers, olive, margined with black, and tipped with white; throat and chest, black; a stripe of white runs from the angle of the lower mandible; under surface, ash-grey, tinged on the flanks with brown; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, dark horn colour.

Total length, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch; wing, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tail, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: Western Australia.

PSOPHODES CREPITANS (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

COACH-WHIP BIRD.

THIS is one of the inhabitants of the dense brushes of New South Wales, which are the home of so many peculiar forms of bird life.

It is very shy in disposition, and generally remains among the thick foliage of the trees, or among climbing plants, clinging to them in various graceful attitudes. It obtains its food of insects by scratching among the dead leaves on the ground, and turning over small stones.

Its note is very remarkable, resembling nothing so much as the cracking of a whip, and is continually poured forth during the day, especially in springtime, when it becomes very animated and lively.

The eggs, which are an inch and an eighth in length, and thirteen-sixteenths of an inch in breadth, are laid in a nest formed of grass, and placed in a small bush. They are two in number, and are greenish-white, spotted with black.

The male has the head, chin, ear-coverts, and breast, black; a large patch of white on each side of the neck; all the upper and under surface, and tail, very dark olive-green, the three lateral tail-feathers on each side, and some of the feathers on the centre of the abdomen, being tipped with white; wings, olive-brown; irides, dark red; bill, legs, and feet, black.

The female is smaller, and her plumage is not so distinctly marked as that of the male.

Habitat: New South Wales.

GENUS SPHENOSTOMA (*Gould*).

THE only known species of this form, which is closely allied to the genus *Psophodes*, inhabits the interior of Australia.

SPHENOSTOMA CRISTATUM (*Gould*).

CRESTED WEDGE-BILL.

THIS little-known species is found in the interior of New South Wales and South Australia, among the low trees and bushes which grow in those parts.

It is very shy and retiring in disposition, and for this reason, and also on account of the out-of-the-way places it inhabits, next to nothing is known of its habits.

The nest is constructed of small sticks, and lined with fine grasses. The eggs are white, tinged with green, and spotted with greyish-black.

The general plumage is brown, lighter beneath; chin, and sides of the head, white; wings, dark brown, the primaries margined with white; tail, blackish-brown, tipped with white; irides, dark brown; bill and feet, black.

Habitats: Interior of New South Wales and South Australia.



PLATE XXV.

GENUS MENURA (*Davies*).

TWO species of this very remarkable genus inhabit Australia. Some naturalists, Gould among the number, divide them into three, making a separate species of the one from Victoria, but the differences observable scarcely warrant this division.

MENURA SUPERBA (*Davies*).

LYRE-BIRD.

THIS bird, known in different parts of the country as Menura, Lyre-bird, Pheasant, Mocking-bird, and by a variety of other names, inhabits New South Wales, Victoria, and some parts of Queensland and South Australia. It is found only in dense brushes and deep rocky gullies and creeks, but on account of its shyness it is very difficult to obtain a sight of it.

It constructs little round hillocks, on which it dances about in the early morning or the evening, when it also utters a loud and very musical whistle. It also mocks all the other birds in the forest, and even various sounds, such as those made in chopping or sawing wood. It imitates especially well the notes of the Black Magpie and the Laughing Jackass.

I once saw in Victoria, early in the morning, several females and young birds sitting round whilst an old bird was dancing and singing. They all watched very attentively, and when he had finished one of the young birds got up and attempted to imitate him, making a most ludicrous spectacle.

It feeds on the larger kinds of insects, obtained chiefly by scratching among the fallen leaves.

It never flies, but runs along, leaping over logs and boulders, at an extraordinary rate, so that, even if an observer happens to be near, it has gone like a flash.

The nest is placed generally on the ledge of an overhanging rock, in an almost inaccessible position, but very often it is found on the top of a stump or in a hollow log. It is constructed outwardly of sticks, inside of which fibrous roots and narrow strips of bark are interwoven, the whole being warmly lined with feathers. Only one egg is laid, purplish-grey in colour, spotted with dark brown. Its length is two and a half inches, and its breadth one and five-eighths inch.

The general plumage is bluish-brown; the wing feathers, rufous-brown; upper tail coverts tinged with rufous; chin and front of the throat, dark red; space round the eye, dark blue; the inner webs of the two outer tail-feathers are rufous; to this a margin of bluish-grey succeeds; then a line of white, the outer webs and tips being dark brown; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

The female is more greyish in colour, and is destitute of the lyre-shaped tail.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and parts of South Australia and Queensland.



PLATE XXVI.

MENURA ALBERTI (*Gould*).

PRINCE ALBERT'S LYRE-BIRD.

FOR a long time the only species known of this genus was the *Menura Superba*, but another was discovered among the brushes of the northern part of New South Wales, to which Gould gave the name of *Menura Alberti*.

In habits and general economy it is exactly like its congener, in fact, the only differences consist in the rufous colouring of the plumage, and in the somewhat different shape of the tail, the outer feathers, which in *Menura Superba* are the longest, being in this bird the shortest.

The nest is composed of sticks, lined with fine roots, and is placed generally in the fork of a tree, near the ground, or on the ledge of a rock. The single egg which is laid is bluish-grey in colour, blotched with very dark brown.

The male has the crown of the head and back of the neck, black; the upper surface and wings, reddish-brown; throat, rusty red; under surface, grey; upper surface of the outer tail-feathers, black; under surface, silvery-grey, the two centre tail-feathers much longer than the others, and crossing each other at the base; they are webbed only on one side; the irides are dark red; bill, legs, and feet, black.

The female has not the peculiarly shaped tail, but in other respects is similar to the male.

Habitat: Northern part of New South Wales.



PLATE XXVII.

GENUS EOPSALTRIA (*Gould*).

FIVE members of this genus inhabit Australia, none being found in other countries.

EOPSALTRIA AUSTRALIS (*G. R. Gray*).

YELLOW-BREASTED ROBIN.

THIS species inhabits New South Wales and Victoria. Like all the Robin tribe, it is very tame, and when perched on a log or stump will sometimes allow persons to approach so close as to be almost able to touch it with the hand. I have seen it following men from tree to tree when they are clearing ground, and now and again darting down to pick up a grub as it is unearthed. One of them one day came where I was sitting on the ground, and first of all picked up some March-flies which I had killed, then perched on my boot, and finally on my shoulder, where he remained until a sudden movement of my head frightened him. For several days after that I went to the same place, and each time my little friend came up, first shyly, and then more boldly, until he was perched on some part of my body, remaining there as long as I kept perfectly still.

Its food consists of all kinds of insects.

During the months of September and October, which constitute the breeding season, a small cup-shaped nest is constructed of strips of bark, small roots and grass, the whole being fastened together with cobwebs, and lined with leaves and fine grasses. Two eggs are laid, the colour of which is bright green, spotted with chestnut-brown, and also to a small extent with dark brown. Their length is nine lines, and their breadth seven and a half lines.

The female is smaller than the male, but there is no material difference in the colouring of the sexes.

The head, ear-coverts, and back are olive-grey; wings and tail, brown; rump, chin, and under surface, yellow; irides, umber-brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: New South Wales and Victoria.

EOPSALTRIA GRISEOGULARIS (*Gould*).

GREY-BREASTED ROBIN.

THE Grey-breasted Robin is found in most of the forests and thickets of Western Australia, where it flits about from bush to bush, or runs along the ground in search of its food.

Its song consists of a long drawn-out double note several times repeated.

The breeding season is in September and October, when it lays two eggs in a cup-shaped nest,

constructed of strips of bark matted together with cobwebs, and lined with soft bark or leaves. The eggs are light brown in colour, spotted with yellowish-red. They are ten lines long, and seven and a half lines broad.

The female does not differ from the male in outward appearance.

Crown of the head, ear-coverts, and back, olive-grey; wings and tail, greyish-brown; throat, white; chest, greyish-white; abdomen, yellow; irides, umber-brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitat: Western Australia.

EOPSALTRIA CAPITO (*Gould*).

LARGE-HEADED ROBIN.

THE brushes in the neighbourhood of the rivers of the north part of New South Wales are the home of this species, which resembles greatly, both in habits and outward appearance, the Yellow-breasted Robin.

It breeds in September and October, laying two eggs in a nest formed of strips of bark, and placed in the fork of a tree.

The female is slightly smaller than the male, but otherwise the sexes do not differ in appearance.

The crown of the head, upper surface, wings, and tail are olive; lores and throat, greyish-white; under surface, yellow; irides, umber-brown; bill, black; legs and feet, brownish flesh-colour.

Total length, 5 inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: New South Wales.



EOUSAIRA A. (G. R. Gray)
Yellow-breasted Robin

3 EOUSAIRA A. (G. R. Gray)
Large-headed Robin

PLATE XXVIII.

EOPSALTRIA LEUCOGASTER (*Gould*).

WHITE-BELLIED ROBIN.

THE present species inhabits the hills and high parts of Western Australia. No specimens have been obtained on the plains.

Unlike most of the Robins, it is very shy and secluded in its habits, but in other respects resembles its congeners.

Its food consists entirely of insects, obtained on the ground or among bushes and small trees.

The crown of the head, upper surface, wings, and tail are dark slate-grey, the tail-feathers tipped with white; under surface, white; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitat: Western Australia.

GENUS DRYMODES (*Gould*).

OF the two species known of this genus, one inhabits the northern part of Australia, and the other the southern.

DRYMODES SUPERCILIARIS (*Gould*).

EASTERN SCRUB-ROBIN.

THIS species inhabits the north-eastern portion of Australia, being most plentiful in the vicinity of Cape York. It is found in thick, scrubby country, and remains almost entirely on the ground.

It breeds in October and November, constructing a nest of small twigs lined with fine fibres and various grasses. The eggs, two in number, are in length one inch and in breadth seven-tenths of an inch. In colour they are stone-grey, blotched and spotted with umber-brown. The sexes are alike in colouring.

Lores, white; beneath each eye is a mark of black; crown of the head, upper surface, and tail, reddish-brown; the two outer tail-feathers tipped with white; wings, black, with the base of the primaries and secondaries, and the tips of coverts, white; throat and chest, buffy-white; rest of abdomen, buff; irides, umber-brown; bill, black; legs and feet, yellowish-brown.

Total length, $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch; wing, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail, 4 inches; tarsi, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches.

Habitat: North-east coast.

DRYMODES BRUNNEOPYGIA (*Gould*).

SCRUB-ROBIN.

THE Scrub-Robin is found in the country bordering the Murray River, in Victoria and South Australia.

It is generally seen on the ground, running and hopping about, with its tail held erect after the manner of the *Maluri*.

In its mode of nidification it resembles its congener, the nest being made of small sticks, and being placed on the ground at the foot of a tree. The male is considerably larger than the female, but they are exactly similar in colouring.

The head and upper surface are brown, the upper tail-coverts tinged with rufous; wings, dark brown, the primaries and secondaries crossed near the base with white; tail, dark brown, all but the two middle feathers tipped with greyish-white; under surface, greyish-brown, each feather tipped with a crescent-shaped mark of brown; irides, reddish-brown; bill, black; legs and feet, dark brown.

Total length, 8 inches; bill, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch; wing, $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches; tail, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Habitats: Victoria and South Australia.

EOPSALTRIA LEUCURA (*Gould*).

WHITE-TAILED ROBIN.

THIS bird, which, both in appearance and habits, bears a strong resemblance to *Eopsaltria Leucogaster*, is exclusively confined to the Mangrove swamps bordering the north coast of Australia.

Nothing has been ascertained of its mode of nidification, but it most probably assimilates in this respect, as in others, to its near congener.

The head and ear-coverts are black; the upper surface dark grey, with a small patch of white on the rump; wings, blackish-brown; tail, black, the base of the four external feathers on each side being white; a band of light grey across the chest; rest of under surface, white; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{13}{16}$ inch; wing, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, 3 inches; tarsi, 1 inch.

Habitat: North coast.



PLATE XXIX.

GENUS PÆCILODRYAS (*Gould*).

TWO species have been discovered of this genus, both inhabiting the north coast of Australia.

PÆCILODRYAS CERVINIVENTRIS (*Gould*).

BUFF-SIDED ROBIN.

THIS bird, which has many of the characteristics both of the *Petroicæ* and the *Eopsaltriæ*, inhabits the north-west coast of Australia, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Victoria River, where the first specimen was procured by Mr. Elsey.

Beyond the fact that it frequents scrubby country, nothing is known of its habits.

The crown of the head, upper surface, wings, and tail are brown; forehead, line over the eye, and tips of the tail-feathers, white; throat and chest, grey; abdomen, brownish-buff; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; wing, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitats: North-west coast of Australia.

GENUS PETROICA (*Swainson*).

MEMBERS of this very pretty genus inhabit most parts of Australia, four species being known.

PETROICA GOODENOVII.

RED-CAPPED ROBIN.

THE Red-capped Robin inhabits New South Wales, all the southern part of Australia, and also some parts of Western Australia. It is not found near the coast, but is fairly plentiful in the open forest land in the interior.

The nest is composed of grass and strips of bark, lined with feathers or fur. It is placed sometimes in a hole in the trunk of a tree, and sometimes in a fork of a branch, but always at a considerable height from the ground. The eggs, either three or four in number, are of a greyish-white colour, spotted with light brown, and, to a slight extent, with bluish-grey. Their average length is about five-eighths of an inch, and their breadth half an inch.

The male has the upper surface, throat, and tail, black; wings, black; the wing-coverts and secondaries broadly margined with greyish-white, forming a conspicuous stripe along the wings; also a broad stripe of the same colour across the primaries; crown of the head, breast, and abdomen, scarlet, passing into white on the vent and under tail-coverts; irides and bill, dark brown; legs and feet, black.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

PETROICA PHŒNICEA (*Gould*).

FLAME-BREASTED ROBIN.

IN Victoria and Tasmania this beautiful bird is very common, and is also found, but to a much less extent, in New South Wales and South Australia.

It is very tame in disposition, and prefers the vicinity of habitations to the forests which are frequented by the other members of the genus. When seated on a stump or small tree, it may be approached very closely before taking flight.

During the breeding-season a nest is built of narrow strips of bark and various grasses, the whole being matted together with cobwebs and lined with feathers and sometimes opossum fur. Three eggs are laid, greenish-white in colour, and spotted and blotched with dark and light brown. They are nine lines long and seven lines broad.

The male has the crown of the head, upper surface, wings and tail, brownish-grey, the wing-feathers edged with white; forehead, white; chin, grey; under surface, scarlet; under tail-coverts, white; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

The female has the upper surface, wings, and tail, brown; under surface, reddish-grey.

Habitats: Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, and South Australia.



1 PŒCILODRYAS CERVINIVENTRIS (Gould)
Buff-sided Robin

2 PETROICA GOODENOVII
Red-capped Robin

3 PETROICA PHŒNICEA (Gould)
Flame-breasted Robin

PLATE XXX.

PETROICA MULTICOLOR (*Swains.*)

SCARLET-BREASTED ROBIN.

THIS, one of the most beautiful, and at the same time one of the commonest members of the genus *Petroica*, is found in Tasmania, and in the whole of the continent of Australia, except Queensland and the north coast.

It is more arboreal in habits than the *Petroica Phœnicea*, but in its remarkable tameness, and in its other characteristics, it closely assimilates to that bird.

Its food consists of grubs and various kinds of insects.

It breeds from August to the end of February, constructing its nest in the same manner as its congeners, namely, of bark and grass, lined with hair and feathers. The colour of the eggs is greenish-white, freckled with dark brown and bluish-grey, particularly at the larger end. In length they are nine lines, and in breadth seven lines. Two, and sometimes three, broods are reared each year.

The male has the head, throat, tail, and upper surface, black; forehead, and a patch on the wings, white; wings, brown; breast, and centre of abdomen, scarlet; lower part of abdomen, and lower tail-coverts, white; irides and bill, dark brown; legs and feet, black.

The female has the upper and under surface, brown, with a patch of pink on the breast.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia.

PETROICA ERYTHROGASTRA.

NORFOLK ISLAND ROBIN.

ALTHOUGH resembling in a marked degree the *Petroica Multicolor*, the two birds have still sufficient points of difference to warrant their division into distinct species. Gould at first believed them to be identical, but on further investigation discovered his mistake, and restored to the present bird the specific name of *Erythrogastra*, which had been assigned to it by Latham.

In all its habits it resembles its congener.

The male has the forehead greyish-white; a patch on the wings, and the under tail-coverts, white; chest and abdomen, scarlet; rest of plumage, black; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

The female has the head, upper surface, wings and tail, reddish-brown; throat, buffy-white; chest and centre of abdomen, scarlet; lower part of abdomen and under tail-coverts, white.

Habitat: Norfolk Island.

GENUS ERYTHRODRYAS.

THE members of this genus resemble the *Petroica* in many respects, but are less bold and more arboreal in their habits.

ERYTHRODRYAS ROSEA (*Gould*).

ROSE-BREASTED WOOD-ROBIN.

THE dense brushes near the coast of New South Wales and Victoria constitute the habitat of this species, which is found there in considerable numbers.

It remains almost entirely in the interior of the forest, but although very seldom approaching the habitation of man, it is still very tame, and it is therefore easy to obtain a close view of it. It utters a feeble but cheerful note.

The male has the upper surface, wings, and tail, greyish-black; a line of white across the forehead; chest, and part of the abdomen, rich rose-red; lower part of abdomen and under tail-coverts, white; irides, bill, legs, and feet, black.

The female has the upper surface greyish-brown; wings and tail, brown; under surface as in the male.

Total length of male, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Habitats: New South Wales and Victoria.

ERYTHRODRYAS RHODINOASTER (*Gould*).

PINK-BREASTED WOOD-ROBIN.

THE present species is almost entirely confined to Tasmania, but stray specimens have been procured in Victoria and South Australia.

It frequents the densest and most remote parts of the forest, where its presence is only betrayed by its cheerful, though low uttered note.

It feeds on insects, obtained chiefly whilst on the wing.

The nest is formed in the same way as those of the *Petroica*, and, like them, it lays three or four eggs, greenish-white in colour, and speckled with light and dark brown. The length of the eggs is eight and a half lines, and the breadth six and a half lines.

The male has the head, neck, throat, back, tail, and wings, black, the wings tinged with brown; breast and abdomen, light pink; irides and bill, black; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

The female has the upper surface, wings, and tail, brown; throat, brownish-buff; chest and abdomen, brownish-grey; vent and under tail-coverts, buff.

Habitats: Tasmania, Victoria, and South Australia.



G. J. Broinowski. Fecit

1. PETROICA MULTICOLOR (Swains)
Scarlet-breasted Robin

3. ERYTHRODRYAS ROSEA (Gould)
Rose-breasted Wood Robin

2. PETROICA ERYTHROGASTRA
Norfolk Island Robin

4. ERYTHRODRYAS RHODINOASTER (Gould)
Pink-breasted Wood Robin

PLATE XXXI.

PŒCILODRYAS SUPERCILIOSA (*Gould*).

WHITE-EYEBROWED ROBIN.

OF this species, first discovered by Gilbert in the north part of Queensland, very little is known beyond the fact that it inhabits dense scrub bordering the rivers in that region, particularly the Burdekin.

Its shyness of disposition leads it to frequent the thickest part of the scrub, and it is therefore very little seen. Like the *Petroica* it carries its tail erect.

A stripe across the forehead and over the eye, the throat, lower part of abdomen, and the bases of the primaries and the secondaries are white; lores, ear-coverts, and primaries and secondaries, brownish-black; remaining wing-feathers, upper surface and tail, dark brown; chest and part of abdomen, light grey; irides, reddish-brown; bill, legs and feet, black.

Total length, 5 inches; bill, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; wing, 3 inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: North-eastern part of Australia.

GENUS AMAURODRYAS (*Gould*).

THE single member of this form differs considerably in the style of colouring from the *Petroica*.

AMAURODRYAS VITTATA.

DUSKY ROBIN.

THE exclusive home of this bird is Tasmania, the situations most frequented by it being places thinly timbered and covered with thickets and stunted growth of all kinds. It has not been found on the continent of Australia. Like the *Petroica Multicolor* it is very often seen in the vicinity of dwellings, its tameness making it a great favourite.

While procuring from the branches of small trees the insects on which it lives, it utters a low monotonous note.

The site usually chosen for its nest is a ledge of a rock, or some other sheltered place. The structure itself is cup-shaped, and is built of roots, small sticks and grass, lined with wool or fur. Three, and sometimes four eggs are laid, ten lines long and seven and a half lines broad. In colour they are light greenish-blue, speckled with dark brown.

The sexes do not differ in outward appearance.

The upper surface, wings, tail, and ear-coverts are dark brown ; under surface, greenish-white ; irides, reddish-brown ; bill, legs, and feet, blackish-brown.

Habitat : Tasmania.

GENUS MELANODRYAS (*Gould*).

SOME naturalists consider that there are two members of this genus, but as this assertion rests on very slender grounds, only one has been figured here.

MELANODRYAS CUCULLATA.

HOODED ROBIN.

THE Hooded Robin is found in all parts of Australia except the north, dwelling principally in open forest country, where it is nearly always to be seen on some of the lower branches of large trees, flitting about in search of insects. It does not inhabit Tasmania.

It breeds from September till the end of January, laying three eggs in a nest made of narrow strips of bark and various coarse grasses, lined with fine fibrous roots and wool, and placed in the fork of one of the lower branches of a tree. The length of the eggs is ten and a half lines, and their breadth seven and a half lines. In colour they are light green, tinged with brown. Two, and sometimes three, broods are reared each season.

The male has the throat, upper surface, wings, and tail, blackish-brown ; the feathers covering the insertion of each wing, a band across the secondaries, and bands across the outer tail-feathers on each side, are white ; breast and abdomen, white ; irides, blackish-brown ; bill, legs, and feet, black.

The female has the upper surface brownish-grey ; wings, as in the male ; under surface, light brownish-grey ; tail, brown, the lateral feathers white at the base.

Habitats : New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.



G. J. Bechewski. Febr.

- 1 PŒCILODRYAS SUPERCILIOSA (Gold,
White-eyebrowed Robin.
- 2 AMAURŒDRIAS VITTATA,
Dusky Robin.
- 3 MELANODRYAS CUCULLATA
Hooded Robin

PLATE XXXII.

GENUS SMICRORNIS (*Gould*).

THE two species of this form are remarkable as being the most diminutive of all the Australian birds.

SMICRORNIS BREVIROSTRIS (*Gould*).

SHORT-BILLED SMICRORNIS.

THIS very interesting bird has a most extensive range, being found in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

It is almost entirely arboreal in habits, and shows a decided preference for trees of the Eucalyptus tribe, among the branches and leaves of which it procures abundance of small insects, on which it feeds.

The breeding season extends from September to December. The nest, which is attached to a small branch of a tree, is globular in shape, with an entrance in the side. It is constructed of moss, the down of flowers, and cobwebs, the inside being warmly lined with feathers. Three eggs are laid, brownish-buff in colour, and speckled at the larger end with darker colour. Their average length is about six and a-half lines, and their breadth four and a-half lines.

The crown of the head, centre part of the back, rump, tail, and wing-feathers, except the primaries, greenish-olive; rest of the upper surface and primaries, brown; ear-coverts, brownish-grey; patch round the eye, white; throat and chest, yellowish-white; rest of under surface, light reddish-buff; irides, light brown; bill, black; legs and feet, reddish-brown.

Total length, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, 2 inches; tail, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

SMICRORNIS FLAVESCENS (*Gould*).

YELLOW-TINTED SMICRORNIS.

THE home of this, the smallest of all the Australian birds, is the northern coast of Australia, more especially about the Cobourg Peninsula.

It always perches on the branches at the top of the highest trees, on which account, and also from its diminutive size, it is difficult to discover anything of its habits, or even to procure specimens.

In its mode of nidification it resembles the *Smicrornis Brevirostris*, building a globular-shaped nest, with the entrance in the side.

The female does not differ in outward appearance from the male.

The upper surface is yellowish-olive; the crown of the head and a line down the back tinged with brown; the wings and tail, brown, the tail being tipped with greyish-white; patch round the eye rufous; under surface, yellow; irides, light brown; bill, legs, and feet, brown.

Total length, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{16}$ inch; wing, $\frac{7}{18}$ inch; tail, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{9}{16}$ inch.

Habitat: North coast.

GENUS GERYGONE (*Gould*).

OF this genus, which is closely allied to the Flycatchers, several species inhabit Australia, and others the islands to the north of it.

GERYGONE CHLORONOTUS (*Gould*).

GREEN-BACKED GERYGONE.

THE present species inhabits the northern part of Australia, frequenting the Mangrove swamps which border the coast.

Its shy and timid disposition causes it to stay in the most retired places, and its green colouring assists it in remaining secure from observation among the foliage of the trees.

It feeds entirely on insects.

The sexes are alike, both in size and colouring.

The head, centre of the back, wings, and tail are olive-brown; a patch on the crown of the head, and the remaining portion of the back, are olive-green; ear-coverts, olive-green, margined with brown; under surface, buffy-white; irides, reddish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, greenish-grey.

Total length, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{9}{16}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: North Coast of Australia.

GERYGONE LAEVIGASTER (*Gould*).

BUFF-BREASTED GERYGONE.

THE same situations in which the *Gerygone Chloronotus* is found, namely, the Mangrove swamps on the north coast of Australia, are also frequented by this bird, which, however, differs considerably in habits from its congener.

It seeks its food among the foliage of the trees, and while engaged in this occupation, utters a feeble but rather musical note. In disposition it is very tame, and it is possible to approach so closely as to almost seize it with the hand before it leaves the branch on which it is perched.

Dissection is necessary to distinguish the sexes, so much alike are they in appearance.

All the upper surface and wings are brown; tail, brown, rufous at the base, and tipped with white; under surface, greyish-white; irides, yellow; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, 2 inches; tail, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitat: North Coast of Australia.



C.J. Bozinowski. Fee

- 1 *SMICRONIS BREVIROSTRIS*, (Gould)
Short-billed Smicronis.
3 *GERYGONE LAEVICASTER*, (Gould)
Buff-breasted Gerygone.

- 2 *GERYGONE CHLORONOTUS*, (Gould)
Green-backed Gerygone
4 *SMICRONIS FLAVESCENS*, (Gould)
Yellow-tinted Smicronis.

PLATE XXXIII.

GERYGONE FUSCA (*Gould*).

BROWN GERYGONE.

IN most of the brushes near the coast, in New South Wales and Victoria, this species is found in considerable abundance. It also inhabits, to some extent, thick forests in the interior.

It obtains its food in different ways, sometimes procuring it from the branches and leaves of the trees, and at other times catching insects whilst on the wing, after the manner of the Flycatchers.

It continually utters a weak twittering note.

It breeds in September and the two following months, constructing of moss, bark, and various soft grasses, a dome-shaped nest, with an entrance in the side in the form of a spout. Three white eggs, slightly freckled with red, are laid; their length is seven and a-half lines, and their breadth five and a-half lines.

The upper surface, wings, and base of the tail, brown; a band of black stretches across the tail near the tip, the extremities of the feathers being white; under surface, light yellow; irides, light red; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitats: New South Wales and Victoria.

GERYGONE ALBOGULARIS (*Gould*).

WHITE-THROATED GERYGONE.

THIS is an inhabitant of New South Wales, but unlike the Brown Gerygone, it frequents the open Eucalyptus forests rather than the brushes.

It resembles the *Gerygone Fusca* in habits, like it resorting principally to the trees to obtain its means of subsistence.

There is no perceptible difference in the plumage of the sexes.

The crown of the head, ear-coverts, upper surface, and wings, are olive-brown; two centre tail-feathers, brown, the remainder greyish-white, crossed near the tip by a band of black; throat, white; rest of under surface, light yellow; irides, light red; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: New South Wales.

GERYGONE CULICIVORA (*Gould*).

WESTERN GERYGONE.

THE present species, as its name would imply, inhabits Western Australia, frequenting both the forests of Eucalypti and the denser brushes.

While flitting about among the trees, it utters, sometimes a very musical whistle, and at other times a feeble, but pleasing song.

The nest, which is constructed in September, is globular in shape, and is formed of bark and moss, matted together with cobwebs, and lined with feathers.

All the upper surface, wings, and tail, are olive-brown, the tail crossed near the tip by a band of black; lores, black; line over the eye, throat, and chest, greyish-buff; centre of abdomen and tail-coverts, white; flanks, buff; irides, light red; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: Western Australia.

GERYGONE MAGNIROSTRIS (*Gould*).

GREAT-BILLED GERYGONE.

THE north coast of Australia is the home of this bird, the first specimen of which was procured by Gilbert, on Greenhill Island, near Port Essington.

It inhabits Mangrove swamps, obtaining its food, like the other members of the genus, among the leaves and branches of the trees.

The sexes are alike in outward appearance.

The upper surface and wings are dark brown; tail, lighter brown, crossed near the tip by a band of black; under surface, white, inclining to grey on the flanks and vent; irides, reddish-brown; bill, black; legs and feet, dark brown.

Total length, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{9}{16}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: North coast of Australia.

GERYGONE PERSONATA (*Gould*).

MASKED GERYGONE.

THE Masked Gerygone is found in the district about the Cape York Peninsula, frequenting those places covered with small trees and bushes, among which it remains.

In general habits it does not differ materially from its congeners.

To distinguish the sexes, dissection is necessary, so much do they resemble one another.

The head and upper surface are dark grey ; wings and tail, brown ; chin and ear-coverts, white ; throat and chest, brownish-black ; abdomen, bright yellow ; irides, dark red ; bill, black ; legs and feet, dark brown.

Total length, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches ; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch ; wing, $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches ; tail, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch ; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitat : North coast of Australia.



1 GERYGONE FUSCA, (Gould)
Brown Gerygone.

2 GERYGONE ALBOGULARIS (Gould)
White-throated Gerygone.

3 GERYGONE CULICIVORA, (Gould)
Western Gerygone.

4 GERYGONE MAGNIROSTRIS, (Gould)
Great-billed Gerygone.

5 GERYGONE PERSONATA (Gould)
Masked Gerygone

G. J. Brinowski. Fecit

PLATE XXXIV.

GENUS MONARCHA (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

FOUR species of this form inhabit Australia, and several others are found in the islands to the northward.

MONARCHA CARINATA (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

CARINATED FLYCATCHER.

DURING the time from spring to autumn, the brushes of New South Wales and Victoria are visited by this species, which departs again about the end of April. It is found both in the brushes near the coast, and in the interior.

Its name of Flycatcher is scarcely appropriate, since it does not capture insects while on the wing, but obtains them from the trees.

The forehead, lores, and throat are black; upper surface, wings, and tail, brownish-grey; sides of the neck and the chest, light grey; rest of under surface, rufous; irides, brownish-grey; bill, legs, and feet, dark grey.

Habitats: New South Wales and Victoria.

MONARCHA TRIVIRGATA (*Gould.*)

BLACK-FRONTED FLYCATCHER.

THIS is an inhabitant of Queensland, but for some reason or other specimens are very rare, and nothing positive is known of its habits.

It resembles greatly, both in form and colouring, a species of *Monarcha* procured in the island of Timor by Mr. Wallace.

The forehead, throat, space round the eye, and the ear-coverts are black; upper surface and wings, greenish-grey; tail, dark grey, the three outer feathers on each side tipped with white; chest, flanks, and centre of abdomen, rufous; rest of under surface, white; bill, legs, and feet, dark grey.

Habitat: Queensland.

MONARCHIA LEUCOTIS (*Gould*).

WHITE-EARED FLYCATCHER.

THIS species is an inhabitant of the north-eastern part of Australia, and of the adjacent islands.

It obtains its food among the trees, and also captures insects while on the wing, but beyond this nothing can be definitely stated of its habits.

It might perhaps with good reason be thought that on account of the differences, both in form and colouring, between this species and others of the same genus, a new genus might be created for it; but more information concerning its habits is required before taking that step.

The crown of the head, back of the neck, and throat are black; wing-feathers, brown, white at the base; tail, dark brown, all but the two centre feathers tipped with white; lores, a broad mark over the eye, ear-coverts, and scapularies, white; back, brownish-gray; abdomen and chest, light grey; irides, light brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: North-eastern coast.

MONARCHIA ALBIVENTRIS (*Gould*).

WHITE-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.

IN the scrubby country in the vicinity of Cape York Peninsula, this bird is found, but not in any considerable abundance. It feeds on insects obtained principally among the bushes and small trees.

During the breeding season a small shallow nest is constructed, in which two eggs are laid, creamy-white in colour, and spotted with rufous. They are five-eighths of an inch long, and one half inch broad.

The forehead, lores, ear-coverts, and part of the throat are black; upper surface and wings, greenish-grey; tail-feathers, greenish-grey, all except the two centre ones tipped with white; sides of the neck, and breast, orange; abdomen, greyish-white; flanks, orange; irides, light brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitat: North coast.



1. MONARCHA CARINATA, (Vig. & Horsf.)
Carinated Fly-catcher.
3. MONARCHA LEUCOTIS, (Gould)
White-eared Fly-catcher.

2. MONARCHA TRIVIRGATA, (Gould)
Black-fronted Fly-catcher
4. MONARCHA ALBIVENTRIS, (Gould)
White-bellied Fly-catcher

J. J. Boinowski, fec.

PLATE XXXV.

GENUS MICRÆCA (*Gould*).

ONLY three species of this form are known, all inhabiting Australia.

MICRÆCA ASSIMILIS (*Gould*).

ALLIED FLYCATCHER.

THIS species inhabits Western Australia, frequenting every kind of country, from open forest land studded with giant eucalypti, to the scrubby places and thickets near the coast.

It feeds on insects, procured from the branches of trees, or captured while on the wing. In its other habits it assimilates to the type member of the genus, *Micræca Fascinans*, from which also it differs but little in appearance.

The upper surface and tail are dark brown; wing-feathers, dark brown, margined with lighter colour; chin, brown; under surface, white; irides, reddish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches; bill, $\frac{9}{16}$ inch; wing, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{9}{16}$ inch.

Habitat: Western Australia.

MICRÆCA FASCINANS.

BROWN FLYCATCHER.

IN nearly every part of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, the Brown Flycatcher abounds, frequenting, like its congener, *Micræca Assimilis*, every class of country.

It is generally seen in pairs, usually near the ground, but very often on a branch of a high gum tree, whence it pours forth its beautiful song, which seems to have been granted to it by nature to compensate for its lack of personal beauty.

It is remarkably tame in disposition, and is often found perched on a fence or shrub in close proximity to dwellings.

It feeds exclusively on insects, which are sometimes sought for among the foliage of trees and bushes, and sometimes pursued and captured in the air.

During the breeding season it lays two eggs in a small nest constructed of roots, moss, and strips of bark, which is placed in the fork of one of the branches of a high tree. The eggs are light greenish-blue, blotched with reddish-brown and grey. In length they are eight and a half lines, and in breadth five and a half lines. Two broods are reared each season.

The male and female do not differ in size or colouring.

The upper surface, wings, and tail are dark brown, with the exception of the external feather on each side of the tail, which is white; under surface, greyish-white; irides, blackish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, blackish-brown.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

MICRÆCA FLAVIGASTER (*Gould*).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.

THIS is the northern representative of the genus, being found especially in the neighbourhood of Port Essington, and in the adjacent islands.

Like its congeners it is very tame, and is nearly always found in the vicinity of the habitations of man.

Its song is very varied, sometimes resembling that of the *Petroicæ*, or of the *Gerygones*, and when on the wing it pours forth a soft and melodious note of its own.

Its mode of nidification resembles that of the other members of the genus.

The sexes are alike in outward appearance.

Head, back, and ear-coverts are olive-brown; wings and tail, brown; throat, white; under surface, yellow; irides, brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Habitats: North coast of Australia and the adjacent islands.



1 MICROECA ASSIMILIS (Gould)
Allied Flycatcher

2 MICROECA FASCINANS (Gould)
Brown Flycatcher

3 MICROECA FLAVIGASTER (Gould)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

PLATE XXXVI.

GENUS MYRIAGA (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

OF this genus four species inhabit Australia, and several others the islands to the northward.

MYRIAGA PLUMBEA (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

LEADEN-COLOURED FLYCATCHER.

THIS is an inhabitant of New South Wales during the summer months, but in winter it goes to warmer climes, returning again in spring. It frequents the banks of gullies and creeks, remaining among the high trees, where it captures numerous insects, both on the branches and in the air.

It is seen in pairs, the male frequently uttering a low whistle. It flits about with great activity, and even when perched on a branch, moves its tail about, as if it was impossible for it to keep perfectly still.

The nest is constructed of twigs and moss, and lined with feathers. The breeding season is in August and September.

The sexes differ considerably in colouring.

The male has the upper surface, throat, and breast deep bluish-lead colour; wings and tail slate colour, tinged with blue; abdomen, flanks, and under tail-coverts, buffy-white; irides, reddish-brown; bill, black; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

The female has the wings and tail brown, and the throat and breast bright rusty-red. The rest of the plumage is as in the male.

Habitat: New South Wales.

MYRIAGA CONCINNA (*Gould*).

PRETTY FLYCATCHER.

IN the northern part of Western Australia this species is found, both among the swamps and thickets near the coast, and in the more open forests towards the interior.

It feeds entirely on insects, procured in the air and among the foliage of the trees. Its song is varied, sometimes consisting of a loud whistle, and at other times of a cheerful and rather pleasing note.

The male has the upper surface, wings, and tail deep blue; primaries, slate colour; abdomen and under tail-coverts, greyish-white; irides, reddish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, blackish-brown.

The female differs considerably from the male, having the wings and tail brown, and the throat and breast, rich rufous. In other respects it is the same.

Habitat: North-western portion of Australia.

MYRIAGA NITIDA (*Gould*).

SHINING FLYCATCHER.

DURING the period between September and February, the Shining Flycatcher appears in Tasmania, and at the expiration of that time departs once more to the warmer regions which lie to the north of Australia.

In habits it resembles its congeners, like them showing great activity in pursuing and capturing insects. Its note is a loud, shrill whistle.

During its stay in Tasmania it rears two, if not three, broods, constructing a nest of bark, moss, and fibrous roots, bound together with cobwebs, and warmly lined with fur and the down of flowers. The structure is placed on one of the branches of a high tree. Three eggs are laid, nine lines long and seven lines broad. In colour they are greenish-white; with markings of brown and grey distributed irregularly over the surface.

The male has the upper surface, tail, breast, and wing feathers, except the primaries and secondaries, deep blue; primaries and secondaries, brown; abdomen, white; irides, reddish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, brownish-black.

The female differs in having the upper surface of a duller hue, and the throat and breast reddish-brown.

Habitat: Tasmania.



1 MYIAGRA PLUMBEA (Vig & Horsf)
Lead-coloured Flycatcher

2 MYIAGRA CONGINNA (G. & B)
Pretty Flycatcher

3 MYIAGRA NITIDA (Gould)
Shining Flycatcher

PLATE XXXVII.

MYRIAGA LATIROSTRIS (*Gould*).

BROAD-BILLED FLYCATCHER.

THE present species, which is chiefly remarkable for the broadness of its bill, as compared with the other members of the genus, and for some differences in the plumage, is an inhabitant of the north coast of Australia.

In habits and general economy, so far as has been discovered, it resembles its congeners.

The upper surface, wings, and centre tail feathers are bluish-lead colour; primaries and outer tail feathers, slaty-brown; throat and chest, light rufous; abdomen, white, slightly tinged with buff; irides, dark brown; bill, black; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

Total length, 6 inches; bill, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: North coast.

GENUS MACHÆRIRHYNCHUS (*Gould*).

OF this genus, which closely resembles the *Myriagæ*, two species are known, one inhabiting Australia, and the other the Arn Islands.

MACHÆRIRHYNCHUS FLAVIVENTER (*Gould*).

YELLOW-BREASTED FLYCATCHER.

OF the species under notice, the first specimen was procured at Cape York by Mr. Wilcox, and, although not numerous anywhere, others have since been obtained.

It differs from the *Myriagæ* principally in great lateral development of the bill. It frequents dense thickets, perching on the trees, which it only leaves in order to pursue and capture the insects on which it subsists.

The crown of the head, ear-coverts, and lores are black; back and wing-coverts, olive-green; wings, black, margined with olive-green, with two broad patches of white near the base; tail, black, the outer feathers on each side tipped with white; line from the nostrils over each eye, and all the under surface, bright yellow; irides, blackish brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, 5 inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, 2 inches; tarsi, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Habitat: North Coast.

GENUS ARSES (*Lesson*).

OF this genus, which is closely related to that of *Monarcha*, one member inhabits Australia, and several others are found in various islands of Polynesia.

ARSES KAUPI (*Gould*).

KAUP'S FLYCATCHER.

NO naturalist will question the propriety of Gould's action in naming this bird after Dr. Kaup, who by his assiduous labours did so much for the science of Ornithology.

Very little is known of the species, beyond the fact that it inhabits the north coast, but that little would tend to show that like the members of the genus found elsewhere, it closely resembles the *Monarchæ* in habits.

The crown of the head, ear-coverts, a broad band across the back and chest, the wings, and tail are black; throat, part of chest, back of the neck, and lower part of the back and abdomen are greyish-white; irides, grey; bill, horn colour; legs and feet, black.

Total length, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; wing, $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches; tail, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitat: North coast of Australia.



1 MYIAGRA LATIROSTRIS (Gould)
Broad-billed Flycatcher

2 MACHÆRIRHYNCHUS FLAVIVENTER (Gould)
Yellow-breasted Flycatcher

3 ARSES KAUPÍ (Gould)
Kaup's Flycatcher

PLATE XXXVIII.

GENUS SEISURA (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

A GREAT resemblance exists between the members of this genus and the *Rhipiduræ*, the difference being principally in the structure.

SEISURA INQUIETA.

RESTLESS FLYCATCHER.

IN nearly every part of Australia, except the north coast, this bird is found in considerable abundance, both in the forests and in the thickets and brushes.

Its food consists of insects, sometimes captured in the air, and at other times procured from the ground. For the latter purpose it hovers in the air at a short distance from the earth, and on perceiving an insect darts down upon it. The peculiar noise which it emits during the whole of this performance, and which exactly resembles the sound of a knife-grinder's machine, has procured for it the popular name of "Grinder." Generally, when flying, it utters a harsh and unmusical note, and sometimes a loud whistle.

During the spring months a cup-shaped nest is built of grass, lined with fine fibres and feathers, the structure being placed on a branch of a large tree. Either two or three eggs are laid, in length nine lines and a half, and in breadth seven lines. They are dull white in colour, with a zone of reddish-brown spots round the middle.

There is next to no difference in the external appearance of the sexes.

The head and upper surface are black; wings and tail, dark brown; under surface, greyish-white; irides, bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and the southern part of Queensland.

GENUS PIEZORHYNCHUS (*Gould*).

AUSTRALIA possesses one bird of this form, several other members of which are found in the Aru Islands and others adjacent.

PIEZORHYNCHUS NITIDUS (*Gould*).

SHINING FLYCATCHER.

THE Shining Flycatcher inhabits the northern coast of Australia, being especially abundant in the neighbourhood of Port Essington, where Gilbert was the first to discover it.

It frequents dense thickets and mangrove swamps, where it crawls among the underbrush, uttering, at the same time, a note very like the croak of a frog. It sometimes flies to one of the branches of a tree, and when perched there emits a rather pleasing note; but never remains long off the ground.

The nest, which is placed in a fork of one of the branches of a tree, is constructed of strips of bark, interwoven with fibrous roots, the exterior being covered with moss, and the interior lined with very fine fibres. In this structure two eggs are laid, greyish-white in colour, with spots and blotches of greyish-brown distributed irregularly over the surface. Their medium length is ten lines, and their breadth seven lines.

The male has the whole of the plumage deep greenish-black; irides, greyish-white; bill, legs and feet, black.

The female has the head and back of neck greenish-black; rest of upper surface, wings, and tail, reddish-brown; under surface, white.

Total length, $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch; wing, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tarsi. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

Habitat: North coast of Australia.

GENUS SAULOPROCTA (*Cabanis*).

BY some naturalists there are considered to be two members of this genus in Australia; but, as the only difference is in their size, they can scarcely be reckoned as distinct species.

SAULOPROCTA MOTACILLOIDES.

BLACK FANTAIL.

THIS bird, better known by the name of "Wagtail," is found in every part of Australia, but does not occur in Tasmania. Specimens from the north coast differ from the others in being considerably smaller, but are the same in habits and colouring.

It is one of the tamest of all the Australian birds, being continually found in the immediate vicinity of houses, and when approached closely, merely hops away to a short distance. It is also a very common sight in a paddock to see these birds perched on the backs of horses or cattle, or capturing insects from beneath their noses, the animals, meanwhile, taking not the slightest notice. Except when flying, it continually moves its tail from side to side, which action procures its ordinary name of "Wagtail."

Its note, which is loud and shrill, is always uttered at night.

During the period of incubation, which begins in September, it rears either two or three broods. The nest is placed on the branch of a tree or on a fallen limb, or sometimes beneath the roof of a verandah, and is constructed of strips of bark, fibrous roots, and various grasses, matted together with cobwebs, and lined internally with fine grass, feathers, and hair procured from the backs, and sometimes even from the inside of the ears, of animals. Three eggs are laid, in length nine and a half lines, and in breadth seven lines. Their colour is dull white, with a zone of dark brown spots across the middle, or the larger end.

The colouring of the male and female is the same.

The head, neck, throat, chest, upper surface, and tail are greenish-black, the outer tail-feathers margined with brown; wings, brown; line over the eye and the under surface, greyish-white; irides, bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitat: The whole of Australia.



1 SLISURA INQUIETA
Restless Flycatcher

2 PIEZORHYNCHUS NITIDUS (Gould)
Shining Flycatcher

3 SAULOPROCTA MOTACILLOIDES (Cabanis)
Black Fantail

G. J. Bronowski, fecit

PLATE XXXIX.

GENUS RHIPIDURA (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

MEMBERS of this genus are found in India and Australia, and in most of the islands between these countries.

RHIPIDURA ALBISCAPA (*Gould.*)

WHITE-SHAFTED FANTAIL.

THE present species inhabits Tasmania and the southern portion of Australia, including New South Wales. There are slight differences noticeable in specimens from different places, but not sufficient to justify their division into new species.

It associates in small flocks of from two to six, and is found both in thick brushes and in the more open Eucalyptus forests.

It is remarkably tame in disposition, and often even enters houses in order to obtain small flies or other insects.

Whilst engaged in searching for food among the leaves of trees and bushes, it utters a feeble twittering note.

The breeding season lasts from October to the beginning of January, two and sometimes three broods being reared. The nest is constructed of strips of bark, joined together with cobwebs, and lined with the hairy fibre of fern trees. It is placed on a branch of a tree or in a low bush, never being at a great distance from the ground. The colour of the eggs, which are two in number, is white, with spots and blotches of olive-brown distributed over the surface.

There is no difference in the outward appearance of the sexes.

The crown of the head and ear-coverts are brown; back, black; wings, tail, and a band across the chest, blackish-brown; bases of primaries and secondaries, and tips of tail-feathers, white; line over the eye, chin, and throat, white; under surface, buff; irides, bill, and feet, dark brown.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

RHIPIDURA RUFIFRONS (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

RUFOUS-FRONTED FANTAIL.

IN the thick brushes of New South Wales and Victoria, and also in some parts of South Australia, the *Rhipidura Rufifrons* is found in considerable abundance.

In general habits it resembles the *Rhipidura Albiscapa*, but is much less tame, and also remains more on the ground, where it obtains most of its food. When running along the ground, it continually displays its tail by spreading it out in the shape of a fan.

The nest is constructed of interwoven strips of bark, covered externally with cobwebs, and lined with feathers. Either one or two eggs are laid, the medium length of which is eight lines, and the breadth six lines. In colour they are white, spotted with chestnut-brown and purple, particularly at the larger end, where they often form a zone.

The female is slightly smaller than the male, but otherwise they do not differ in appearance.

The forehead is rusty-red; the crown of the head, upper part of the back, and wings, dark olive-brown; lower part of back, tail, tail-coverts, and flanks, light rufous; chin and throat, white; chest, black; centre of abdomen, greyish-white; irides, brownish-grey; bill, black; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

RHIPIDURA ISURA (*Gould*).

NORTHERN FANTAIL.

THIS, the northern representative of the genus, is particularly abundant on the Cobourg Peninsula.

It is generally seen in pairs, and inhabits, like its congeners, every description of country, from the forests of giant Eucalypti to mangrove swamps. It is in the latter, however, that it is usually found, particularly during the hot portion of the day, when it seeks there a shelter from the heat.

The breeding season begins about the end of August.

The nest, which is made, more or less, in the same way as those of its congeners, and is, like theirs, shaped like a wine-glass, is placed on a small tree, one of the *Banksia* tribe being often chosen.

The upper surface and tail are dark brown; the wings, lighter brown; under surface, buffy-white, with a band of light brown across the chest; a spot behind the eye, white; irides, brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Total length, 8 inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches; tail, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{11}{16}$ inch.

Habitat: North Coast.



1 RHIPIDURA ALBISCAPA (Gould)
White-shafted Fantail

2 RHIPIDURA RUFIFRONS (Vig. & Horsf.)
Rufous-fronted Fantail

3 RHIPIDURA SUBA (Gould)
Northern Fantail

PLATE XL.

MANUCODIA GOULDII (*G. R. Gray*).

GOULD'S MANUCODE.

ABOUT the northern part of Australia and in the adjacent islands this bird is fairly common.

Almost nothing is known of its habits, beyond the fact that it lives entirely on insects. The first specimens were obtained during Captain Stanley's expedition.

The crown of the head, ear-plumes, the lanceolate feathers on the sides of the neck, the centre of the abdomen, and the back are green; primaries, blackish-brown; rest of wing-feathers, green; remainder of plumage, purplish-black; irides, dark red; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitat: North coast of Australia.

GENUS OREOICA (*Gould*).

THIS is a strictly Australian genus, of which only one species is known.

OREOICA CRISTATA (*G. R. Gray*).

CRESTED OREOICA.

THE range of this species is very large, extending over the whole of the southern portion of Australia, the spots most frequented being stony and sterile land, almost devoid of vegetation.

It is most often seen in small companies of from three to six, hopping over the ground, where the greater part of its food, which consists of various seeds and insects, is obtained. When disturbed, it resorts to the branches of the nearest tree.

Its note, which it utters while perched on the limb of a tree, is very remarkable, consisting of a whistle several times repeated and ending with a ringing sound, something like a bell, which obtains for it in some places the name of "Bell-bird." It is, moreover, a perfect ventriloquist, so that when perched at a few yards from an observer, its note appears to come from a long distance.

In October a nest is constructed of strips of bark, lined with grass, and is placed on a small shrub or tree; in Western Australia, the *Xanthorrhœa* or grass tree being most often chosen. Three eggs are laid, in colour greyish-white, with spots, and often minute lines, of black. Some are also blotched with grey, and others again have the larger end of a bluish-green colour.

The female differs from the male in being much duller in colouring.

The male has the face, chin, and throat, white; feathers on the fore part of the head, along the centre of the crest, a line from the eye bounding the white, and a large gorget-shaped mark on the breast are deep black; sides of the head and crest, grey; all the upper surface, wings, and flanks, light olive-brown; centre of abdomen, white; under tail-coverts, reddish-buff; tail, dark brown; irides, reddish-orange; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

GENUS CHIBIA (*Hodgson*).

ONLY one member of this genus has been found in Australia.

CHIBIA BRACTEATA (*Gould*).

SPANGLED DRONGO-SHRIKE.

THE present species is found in Queensland and in all the northern part of Australia, associating in pairs and frequenting brushes and mangrove swamps, and also, to a certain extent, the more open country.

Whilst seeking for the insects on which it subsists, it continually utters a loud, harsh and disagreeable whistle, which, as Gilbert says, "is so totally different from that of any other bird that, having been once heard, it is readily recognised."

It breeds in the spring months, constructing a nest of the stalks of creepers, and placing it on one of the boughs of a high tree. Either three or four eggs are laid.

The head and body, both above and below, are deep black, the feathers of the head and chest having a spot of green on each; wings and tail, bluish-black, the wings tipped with white; irides, brownish-red; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: Queensland and North Coast.



1 MANUCODIA GOULDII (G.R. Gray)
Gould Manucode.

2 DREOLICA CRISTATA (G.R. Gray)
Crested Dreolica

3 CHIBIA BRACTEATA (Gould)
Spangled Drongo-Sparrow.

G. J. Eschscholtz del.

PLATE XLI.

GENUS COLLURICINCLA (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

EACH part of Australia possesses at least one species of this form, which both in structure and habits is a medium between the Shrikes and Thrushes.

COLLURICINCLA HARMONICA.

HARMONIOUS SHRIKE-THRUSH.

NEW SOUTH WALES, Victoria, and South Australia constitute the home of this species, which was first mentioned by Latham.

It is found in all parts of these colonies, both in the plains and large forests, and in the dense brushes and thickets near the coast. In habits it is chiefly arboreal, obtaining the greater portion of its food among the branches of trees. It subsists principally on insects, but seeds and berries also form part of its food.

Its song, which is continually uttered whilst feeding, is very musical, consisting of loud notes several times repeated.

The nest, which is made of bark, roots, and sometimes leaves and wool, is placed either in a hole in the trunk of a decayed tree, or on the ledge of a rock. Three eggs are laid, the ground colour of which is white, slightly tinged with grey, and spotted and blotched with reddish-brown and bluish-grey. Their length is one inch and two lines, and the breadth ten lines.

There is no material difference in the plumage of the sexes.

The ear-coverts are brownish-grey; upper surface and wings, dark brown, the wing feathers margined with black; tail, grey, with dark brown shafts; under surface, light greyish-white, each of the feathers of the throat and chest having a dark line down the centre; irides, brownish-red; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

COLLURICINCLA RUFIVENTRIS (*Gould*).

BUFF-BELLIED SHRIKE-THRUSH.

THE *Colluricincla Rufiventris*, which inhabits Western Australia, bears a strong resemblance to *Colluricincla Harmonica*, but on closer examination many points of difference are found. It frequents principally brushes and other places thickly covered with timber.

Its habits and food are the same as those of its eastern representative.

The breeding season commences in September, two, and sometimes three, eggs being laid in a nest made of strips of bark and lined with fine grasses. The eggs are one inch and one line long, and ten lines broad. In colour they are the same as those of the previously mentioned member of the genus. In some instances eggs of this bird have been found in disused nests of *Pomatostomus Superciliosus*.

The upper surface is deep bluish-grey ; wing-coverts, deep blue ; wings and tail, dark brown ; space round the eye, white ; under surface, dark grey, passing into dark buff on the lower part of the abdomen and under tail-coverts ; irides, dark red ; bill, legs, and feet, blackish-brown.

Habitat : Western Australia.

COLLURICINCLA BRUNNEA (*Gould*).

BROWN SHRIKE-THRUSH.

THIS species of shrike-thrush is found on the north coast, especially in the Cobourg Peninsula and about Port Essington.

In general characteristics and habits it does not differ from its congeners.

It is a very late breeder, a nest with eggs in it having been found as late as February. The nest is constructed of bark, chiefly of the tea tree, and is lined with fine sticks and roots. The eggs, of which there are either two or three, are one inch and two lines long and ten lines broad. In colour they are pearly white, with blotches of brown and dull grey.

The forehead is brownish-white ; upper surface, wings, and tail, brown, slightly tinged with purple ; throat and chest, greyish-white ; rest of under surface very pale brown ; irides, light brown ; bill, black ; legs and feet, brown.

Habitat : North coast.



G. L. Englehard. Fe.

1 COLLURICINCLA HARMONICA
Harmonious Shrike-Thrust
2 COLLURICINCLA RUFIVENTRIS (Gould)
Buff-bellied Shrike-Thrust
3 COLLURICINCLA BRUNNEA (Gould)
Brown Shrike-Thrust

PLATE XLII.

COLLURICINCLA PARVULA (*Gould*).

LITTLE SHRIKE-THRUSH.

THIS, the smallest member of the genus, is in appearance almost a miniature of *Colluricincla* *Brunnea*, and like it, is found on the north coast.

Its shyness of disposition leads it to remain almost entirely in the densest thickets, where it hops about the ground, obtaining there its food of insects and seeds.

The nest is formed like that of the Brown Shrike-Thrush, and is placed generally in the hollow of a tree at a short distance from the ground. Two eggs are laid, the ground colour of which is greyish-white, and which are speckled with reddish-brown, and sometimes with dark umber-brown. In length they are one inch, and in breadth nine lines.

The male is larger than the female, but there is very little difference in their plumage.

The upper surface, wings, tail, and ear-coverts, are dark olive-brown; line over the eye, buff; chin and throat, grey, with a dark line down the centre of each feather; rest of under surface and rump, light brown; irides, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, brownish-black.

Habitat: North coast of Australia.

COLLURICINCLA SELBII (*Jardine*).

SELBY'S SHRIKE-THRUSH.

THE species under notice, which was named by Jardine after his colleague, Selby, is an inhabitant of Tasmania and the islands in Bass's Straits.

It is found chiefly in thickets and the densest parts of forests, and it frequents the branches of the trees to a much greater degree than any of its congeners.

Its food consists of insects and caterpillars, to procure which it makes use of its very strong bill to tear the outer bark from the branches of trees. Whilst engaged in this occupation it continually pours forth a loud and melodious whistling note.

During the season of incubation a cup-shaped nest, composed of strips of bark and lined with various fine grasses, is built in a fissure of a rock, or in a hole in the bole of a tree. Either two or three eggs are laid, the colour of which is much the same as those of other members of the genus.

The male has the upper surface, tail, and ear-coverts, slate-grey; wings and centre of back, brown; throat and chest, white; line over the eye and under surface, very light grey; irides, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, greenish-grey.

The female has the upper surface, wings, and tail, brown; over the eye a stripe of rust-red; under surface same as male, except that the throat and chest are tinged with brown.

Habitats: Tasmania, and adjacent islands.



1 COLLURICINCLA PARVULA (Gould)
Little Shrike-Thrush

2 COLLURICINCLA SELBII (Jard)
Selby's Shrike-Thrush

PLATE XLIII.

GENUS PACHYCEPHALA (*Swainson*).

THE habits of the different members of this genus differ considerably, some frequenting the large trees, and others remaining almost entirely on the ground. They all inhabit Australia, or the islands to the immediate northward.

PACHYCEPHALA GUTTURALIS (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

WHITE-THROATED THICKHEAD.

MOST parts of all the southern colonies of Australia are inhabited by this species, which is usually seen in pairs, principally among the Eucalyptus and Acacia trees, on the branches of which it obtains large quantities of the insects on which it lives.

Its powers of flight are not great, and are seldom used except to pass from tree to tree.

One peculiarity about its note, which is a single one several times repeated and ending with a higher one, is that it is nearly always heard before a thunder storm, a circumstance which has procured for it the name of "Thunder Bird." In September or October a cup-shaped nest is constructed, in which either three or four eggs are laid, dark buff in colour, with irregular marks of chesnut-brown and grey distributed over the surface. Their length is ten and a half lines and their breadth eight lines.

The sexes differ considerably in colouring.

The male has the head, lores, ear-coverts, and crescent-shaped mark across the breast, deep black; throat white; back of the neck, a line down the side of the neck, and all the under surface, yellow; back and wings, greenish-olive, the primaries margined with black; tail, grey at the base, and dark brown at the tip; irides, dark brown; bill, black; legs and feet, brownish-grey.

The female has the upper surface and tail, greyish-brown; primaries and secondaries, brown, margined with grey; throat, pale brown, spotted with white; under surface, buff.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

PACHYCEPHALA GLAUCURA (*Gould*).

GREY-TAILED THICKHEAD.

THE immense forests of Eucalypti which cover a great portion of Tasmania and the adjacent islands, constitute the home of this bird, which is seen in pairs, continually flitting among the leaves and branches of high trees, and sometimes descending to the ground.

The female is rather tame but the male, as if aware that his beautiful plumage makes him a very attractive object to the collector, is of a very shy and timid disposition.

The note resembles greatly that of *Pachycephala Gutturalis*.

The food consists entirely of Coleopterous and other insects, procured both among the foliage of trees and on the ground.

The head, ear-coverts, and a band across the chest are deep black; throat, white; collar round the neck, and the under surface, yellow; under tail-coverts, white; back, olive-green; wings, greenish-olive, the base of the feathers, slate-grey; tail purplish-grey; irides, reddish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, brownish-black.

Total length, 7 inches; bill, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; wing, 4 inches; tail, $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches; tarsi, 1 inch.

Habitat: Tasmania.

PACHYCEPHALA MELANURA (*Gould*).

BLACK-TAILED THICKHEAD.

THE present species, of which very little is known, was discovered on the north coast of Australia by Mr. Bynoe, of the surveying ship "Beagle."

It differs from the *Pachycephala Gutturalis* principally in the black colouring of the tail.

Of its habits next to nothing is known.

The head, a crescent extending from the back of the neck across the chest, and the tail are black, the tail inclining to grey; throat and ear-coverts, white; collar round the back of the neck, and the under surface, rich yellow; centre of back, greenish-olive; rump, orange; wings, greenish-grey; irides, light brown; bill, black; legs and feet, grey.

Total length, 6 inches; bill, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch; wing, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches; tail, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tarsi, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Habitat: North Coast.



G. J. Bozinowski Fecit

- 1 PACHYCEPHALA GUTTURALIS (Vig & Horsf)
White-throated Thickhead
- 2 PACHYCEPHALA GLAUCURA (Gould)
Grey-tailed Thickhead
- 3 PACHYCEPHALA MELANURA (Gould)
Black-railed Thickhead

PLATE XLIV.

PACHYCEPHALA RUFIVENTRIS (*G. R. Gray*).

RUFOUS-BREASTED THICKHEAD.

THE range of the present species is very large, extending as it does over all the continent of Australia, except the extreme north. Like most of the other members of the genus, it does not frequent the brushes, but remains in the more thickly timbered forests, where its loud whistle is continually heard.

Its food consists principally of insects, but this diet is sometimes varied by berries and seeds.

During the months from September to December, which constitute the breeding season, a cup-shaped nest is constructed of fine sticks and roots, and is placed either on one of the horizontal branches of a tree or in a shrub. Three eggs are laid, the average length of which is eleven lines, and the breadth eight lines. The colour is olive, spotted, particularly at the larger end, with brown.

The male has the head and upper surface dark bluish-grey; lores, ear-coverts, and a crescental band across the chest, black; wings and tail, very dark brown, tinged with blue; throat, greyish-white; under surface, orange; irides, bill, legs, and feet, dark brown.

The female has not the black band across the chest, and has the upper surface light fawn-colour instead of orange.

Habitats: Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

PACHYCEPHALA FALCATA (*Gould*).

LUNATED THICKHEAD.

THIS is the northern representative of *Pachycephala Rufiventris*, from which it differs very little either in habits or appearance. In the neighbourhood of Port Essington it is very abundant.

The breeding season commences in September, and lasts till the end of November. Two eggs are laid in a cup-shaped nest, constructed of fibrous roots and small sticks.

The head, upper surface, wings, and tail are dark bluish-grey, the wing-feathers margined with brown; ear-coverts and lores, brownish-grey; throat, greyish-white; a crescent-shaped mark on the chest black; under-surface, dark orange; bill, legs, and feet, grey.

The female is, in all essential points, the same in appearance as the female of *Pachycephala Rufiventris*.

Habitat: North Coast of Australia.

PACHYCEPHALA GILBERTI (*Gould*).

GILBERT'S THICKHEAD.

UNLIKE most of its congeners, Gilbert's Thickhead, so named after the indefatigable naturalist who was the first to discover it, inhabits dense brushes in the interior of Western Australia, the more open forests being rarely resorted to by it.

In general habits it resembles the other members of the genus.

The nest, which is built in July or August, is constructed of small twigs and dried grasses, and is placed in a shrub or small tree. Three eggs are laid.

The male has the upper surface and breast dark slate-grey; wings and tail, grey, tinged with olive; throat, reddish-brown; lower part of abdomen, buff; irides, dark brown; bill, blackish-brown; legs and feet, grey.

The female is duller in general colouring, and is devoid of the brown on the throat.

Habitat: Interior of Western Australia



1 *PACHYCEPHALA RUFIVENTRIS* (G.R.Gray)
Rufous-breasted Thickhead

2 *PACHYCEPHALA FALCATA* (Gould)
Lunate Thickhead

3 *PACHYCEPHALA GILBERTI* (Gould)
Gilbert's Thickhead

G.J. Boonowski Fecit

PLATE XLV.

PACHYCEPHALA OLIVACEA (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

OLIVACEOUS THICKHEAD.

THIS, the largest species of this form, is found in Tasmania, generally in places covered with dense scrub and underbrush.

It feeds on insects and berries, obtained, for the most part, on the ground.

It continually utters a loud whistle, terminating in a kind of smack, something like the crack of a whip.

The head and ear-coverts are dark brown; back, wings, and tail, olive-brown; throat, bluish-grey, each feather tipped with black; chest, and under surface, buff, tinged with olive; irides, reddish-brown; bill, black; legs, and feet, brown.

Habitat: Tasmania.

PACHYCEPHALA SIMPLEX (*Gould*).

PLAIN-COLOURED THICKHEAD.

THE dense thickets and mangrove swamps about the north-western coast of Australia are the home of the species under notice. It was first discovered by Gilbert.

In disposition it is very shy, and is invariably found in the most retired spots. The food consists of seeds and insects, the latter of which it procures on the ground, or among the branches of trees, and sometimes even in the air.

Its note is rather different from those of all the other members of the genus, being much softer, more melodious, and never terminating with the sharp whistle which is so characteristic of the others.

It is a very late breeder, the season of nidification extending from December to February. The nest is constructed of sticks and roots. Three eggs are laid, light olive colour, with blotches and spots of brown.

All the upper surface, wings and tail, are brownish-olive; ear-coverts, grey; throat and chest, yellowish-brown, each feather with a stripe of darker colour down the middle; abdomen, and under tail-coverts, greyish-white; irides, light brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitat: North-western coast.

PACHYCEPHALA RUFOGULARIS (*Gould*).

RED-THROATED THICKHEAD.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA and part of Victoria constitute the habitat of this species of *Pachycephala* which is found principally in the forests of the interior. It is essentially terrestrial in habits, very rarely resorting to the trees to procure food.

It breeds in September and the two following months, the structure of the nest being very much the same as those of its congeners.

The male has the upper surface, wings, and tail, blackish-brown; forehead, lores, chin, throat, and under surface, reddish-brown, the chest being crossed by a band of bluish-grey; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

The female differs in having the under surface greyish-white, with only a trace of the mark on the chest.

Habitats: South Australia and Victoria.



G. J. Brinowski Fecit

1 *PACHYCEPHALA OLIVACEA* (Vig. & Horsf)
Olivaceous Thickhead

2 *PACHYCEPHALA SIMPLEX* (Gould)
Plain-coloured Thickhead

3 *PACHYCEPHALA RUFOGULARIS* (Gould)
Red-throated Thickhead

PLATE XLVI.

PACHYCEPHALA LANOIDES (*Gould*).

SHRIKE-LIKE THICKHEAD.

THE *Pachycephala Lanoides*, which is found on the north-west coast of Australia, differs considerably in structure from the other members of the genus, so much so indeed that it is very doubtful if it should not be made the type of a new genus.

Its food consists of the larger kinds of insects. Of its other habits, nothing is definitely known.

The crown of the head, ear-coverts, chest, wings, back, and tail are blackish-grey, the back of the chest being bounded posteriorly with chestnut-brown; throat, abdomen, and under tail-coverts, greyish-white; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

Habitat: North-west coast of Australia.

GENUS GRALLINA (*Vieillot*).

THIS genus stands quite alone in Australian ornithology, not resembling in a great degree any of the other groups of birds. Only one species is known.

GRALLINA PICATA. (*Strickl.*)

PIED GRALLINA.

THIS bird inhabits all parts of the continent of Australia, being most often found on the sides of creeks, or in flat and swampy places.

It is sometimes seen in pairs, and sometimes in, more or less, large flocks. It is very tame, and may be constantly seen in the close vicinity of houses.

Of its flight *Gould* says: "The flight of the Pied Grallina is very peculiar, unlike that of any other Australian bird that came under my notice, and is performed in a straight line, with a heavy flapping motion of the wings."

During the months of October and November it lays either three or four eggs, in a nest constructed of clay, or, where that is not easily obtainable, of soil mixed with dried grass. The

ground colour of the eggs is either very pale buff, or greyish-white, spotted with dark brownish-red or light red, and also having some few faint blotches of grey. The medium length is about one and a quarter inches, and the breadth nine lines.

There is very little difference in the outward appearance of the sexes.

The male has a line over the eye, a patch on each side of the neck, a patch on the wings, the tips of the secondaries, the abdomen, rump, and basal portion of the tail, white; the rest of the plumage, black; irides, yellowish-white; bill, light yellowish-buff; legs and feet, blackish-brown.

The female differs in having the forehead and chin white.

Habitat: All the colonies of Australia.

PLATE XLVII.

GENUS FALCUNCULUS (*Vieillot*).

THIS is an exclusively Australian genus, of which there are two species, both inhabiting the southern portion of the continent.

FALCUNCULUS FRONTATUS (*Vieillot*).

FRONTAL SHRIKE-TIT.

MOST parts of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia are inhabited by the present species, which is found both in the brushes and in the open forests of the interior.

It feeds on insects and berries, obtaining the former from among the leaves of trees, or from underneath the bark, which it tears off with its strong bill. Whilst obtaining its food, it climbs about the branches and clings to them in every variety of graceful attitude.

The crown of the head, a line through the eye, and the throat, are black; sides of the face and neck, greyish-white; back, olive-green; wings, grey, margined with dark-brown; tail, grey; under surface, yellow; irides, dark brown; bill, black; legs and feet, grey.

The only difference in the colouring of the sexes is that the female has the throat green instead of black.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

FALCUNCULUS LEUCOGASTER (*Gould*).

WHITE-BELLIED SHRIKE-TIT.

THIS, the western representative of the genus *Falcunculus*, is found in most parts of Western Australia, though never in any great abundance.

Being of a very shy disposition, it is usually seen in the thickest and least frequented part of the forest, mostly in pairs. Contrary to the usual rule it becomes much less timid during the breeding season.

It obtains its food in the same manner as its congener, *Falcunculus Frontatus*.

Its powers of flight are not great, and are seldom used except to enable it to pass from tree to tree.

The nest, which is built in October, is constructed of strips of bark, matted together with cobwebs, and lined with fine grasses, and is placed on one of the topmost branches of a high tree. Three or four eggs are laid, seven-eighths of an inch long, and five-eighths of an inch wide. In colour they are white, spotted, particularly at the larger end, with dark olive.

Immediately above the bill is a narrow line of white, from which, down the centre of the head, is a broad stripe of black feathers forming a crest; sides of the face and head, white, divided by a band of black, which passes through the eye; back and wings, olive; primaries, blackish-brown; centre tail-feathers, grey, rest yellowish-olive; throat and chest, black; centre of abdomen, bright yellow; vent, and under tail-coverts, white; irides, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, grey.

The female is smaller than the male and has the throat green instead of black.

Habitat: Western Australia.

GENUS CAMPEPHAGA (*Vieillot*).

MEMBERS of this group are found in Africa, the Indian Islands, and Australia.

CAMPEPHAGA HUMERALIS (*Gould*).

WHITE-SHOULDERED CAMPEPHAGA.

THIS is one of the summer visitants to Australia, being found, during the months from September till February, in all the southern colonies, and sometimes, but rarely, on the north coast.

It displays great animation among the trees in the recesses of the forests, but carefully avoids the haunts of man.

It obtains the insects which constitute its food, either among the branches of trees, or by pursuing them in the air. While flying it continually utters a cheerful and musical note, not unlike that of the canary.

The breeding season extends over the months of September and October, a small and shallow nest being constructed of fine roots and grasses, and sometimes also moss and cobwebs. The favourite situation is the fork of a dead limb of an apple-tree or eucalyptus. The eggs vary in number and colouring, either two or three being laid, and the colour being sometimes light green blotched with brown, and at other times greenish-grey, with blotches of brownish-red covering almost the whole surface. They are nine and a half lines long and seven and a half lines broad. There is a considerable difference in the colouring of the sexes.

The male has the head and back, black; rump, ear-coverts, under surface and basal portion of the wing-feathers, white; wings and tail, brown, the latter tipped with white; irides, yellow; bill, black; legs and feet, brown.

The female has the upper surface, wings, and tail, brown; throat and under surface, buffy-white; the breast speckled with brown; irides, dark brown.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.



G. J. Bozinowski Fecit

1 FALCUNCULUS FRONTATUS (Vieill) 2 FALCUNCULUS LEUCOGASTER (Gould)
 Frontal Shrike-Tit White-bellied Shrike-Tit
 3 CAMPEPHAGA HUMERALIS (Gould)
 White-shouldered Campephaga

PLATE XLVIII.

CAMPEPHAGA JARDINII (*Rüppell*).

JARDINE'S CAMPEPHAGA.

THE northern coast, and part of the east coast, constitute the habitat of this species, which is, however, nowhere very abundant. It is most often found in swampy situations, remaining almost entirely on the topmost branches of trees, where it obtains the insects on which it subsists.

It utters a harsh and disagreeable note, several times repeated.

The male has the lores black; upper surface and wings dark grey, the wing-feathers margined with black; tail-feathers, black, tipped with grey; under surface, lighter grey; irides, bill, and feet, blackish-grey.

The female has the upper surface, wings, and tail, brown; line over the eye, and the under surface, buff; the feathers on the side of the neck, the breast, and flanks, having an arrow-shaped mark of brown in the centre.

Habitats: North and east coasts of Queensland, and part of New South Wales.

CAMPEPHAGA KARU (*G. R. Gray*).

NORTHERN CAMPEPHAGA.

THE Northern Campephaga, as its name would imply, inhabits the north coast of Australia, where it frequents the mangrove swamps and dense thickets.

It is usually seen in pairs, creeping and climbing among the trees in search of insects. Its song consists of a shrill note, several times repeated.

The male has the head, upper surface, wings, and tail, black; wing-coverts tipped with white, and a band of the same colour across the primaries and secondaries; forehead, line over the eye, and under surface, pale rufous; the under surface crossed by five lines of dark grey; irides, blackish-brown; bill, legs, and feet, brownish-black.

The female has the upper surface and tail, brown; and the barrings on the under surface broader and more distinct.

Habitat: North coast.

CAMPEPHAGA LEUCOMELA (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

BLACK-AND-WHITE CAMPEPHAGA.

THIS species, which inhabits the east coast of Queensland, and the northern part of New South Wales, resembles the *Campephaga Karu*, both in appearance and habits.

Like its near congener, it lives entirely on insects obtained among the trees.

There is a considerable difference in the colouring of the sexes.

The male has the head, back, wings, and tail, black; wing-coverts, forehead, and chest, white; rump, dark grey; ear-coverts, and centre of abdomen, grey; vent and under tail-coverts, light brown; irides, dark brown; bill, legs, and feet, black.

The female has the upper surface, wings, and tail, brown; and the under surface tinged with rufous.

Habitat: East coast of Australia, from the Hunter River to a little north of Brisbane.



1 CAMPEPHAGA JARDINII (Rüppell)
Jardine's Campephaga

2 CAMPEPHAGA KARU (G.R.Gray)
Northern Campephaga

3 CAMPEPHAGA LEUCOMELA (Vig & Horsf)
Black & White Campephaga

G. J. Bozinowski Fecit

PLATE XLIX.

GENUS GRAUCALUS (*Cuvier*).

MEMBERS of this group inhabit nearly every part of Australia.

GRAUCALUS MELANOPS (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

BLACK-FACED GRAUCALUS.

THIS bird is distributed over the whole of New South Wales, almost every description of country being equally favoured by it.

It subsists on berries and insects, the latter of which are obtained both among the foliage of the trees, and in the air.

Its song, which it continually utters while perched on a dead limb of a tree, consists of a single rather harsh note, several times repeated.

The breeding season extends from October to January. During that time two eggs are laid in a small, shallow nest, placed in the fork of a tree, and constructed of small dry twigs, matted together with cobwebs and sometimes lined with moss. The eggs are light brown in colour, sometimes tinged with green, and are spotted with reddish or yellowish brown. In length they are thirteen lines and in breadth ten lines.

The sexes are alike in plumage.

The forehead, sides of face, ear-coverts, and throat are black; upper and under surface and wings, light grey, slightly tinged with brown, the primaries and secondaries margined with black; under tail coverts, white; tail, dark grey, tipped with white; irides, legs and feet, dark brown; bill, black.

Habitat: New South Wales.

GRAUCALUS PARVIROSTRIS (*Gould*).

TASMANIAN GRAUCALUS.

THE Tasmanian variety of the genus *Graucalus* resembles the New South Wales species, both in appearance and habits, but is somewhat smaller, and has also some small differences in colouring.

Its habits are so like those of *Graucalus Melanops*, that a separate description is unnecessary.

The forehead, ear-coverts, sides of face and throat are black; upper surface, wings, and tail, dark grey; primaries, dark brown; under surface, grey; irides, brownish-grey; bill, black; legs and feet, dark grey.

Habitat: Tasmania.



G. J. Boonowski Fecit.

1. GRAUCALUS MELANOPS (Vig. & Horsf.)
Black-Faced Graucalus

2. GRAUCALUS PARVIROSTRIS (Gould)
Tasmanian Graucalus

PLATE L.

GRAUCALUS HYPOLEUCUS (*Gould*).

WHITE-BELLIED GRAUCALUS.

THE North Coast of Australia is inhabited by the species under notice, which is there seen in small flocks from four to twelve in number.

It is easily distinguished from the other members of the genus by the white colouring of the under surface, but resembles them closely in habits.

There is next to no difference in colouring between the sexes.

The upper surface and ear-coverts are grey; wing-feathers, black, margined with grey; lores, black; tail, dark brown; sides of neck, and all under surface, white; bill, black; irides, dark brown; legs and feet, dark grey.

Habitat: North Coast.

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GRAUCALUS MENTALIS (*Vig. and Horsf.*)

VARIED GRAUCALUS.

NEW SOUTH WALES, Victoria, and parts of South Australia and Queensland constitute the home of this species, which differs from *Graucalus Melanops* principally in its smaller size.

In diet, general habits, and mode of incubation it resembles the other members of the genus.

There is no material difference in the colouring of the two sexes.

The upper surface and wings are dark slate-grey; lores, black; primaries and secondaries, grey, margined with black; tail, blackish-grey; throat and breast, grey; under surface and shoulders, white; irides, grey; bill, black; legs and feet, dark brown.

Habitats: New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland.



1 GAUCALUS HYPOLEUCUS (Gould)
White-bellied Graucalus

2 GAUCALUS MENTALIS (Vig & Horsf)
Varied Graucalus

G. J. Bozinowski Fecit

